



The Editor and staff at **The GEM** wish all our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas and every good fortune in the New Year. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, January 2.



Picture by  
GLYN EVANS.

Bridgend town centre was overrun by elves of all shapes and sizes recently! To find out why, and to see more pictures, please turn to page 4.

## POPPY TRIBUTE ON ROUNDABOUTS PLAN FOR PORTHCAWL 'MILE OF FLOWERS'

A PORTHCAWL group has put forward a plan to combine the First World War centenary celebrations with a scheme to make the main road into the town a 'Mile of Flowers', writes PHILIP IRWIN.

The plan, suggested by the Porthcawl Shout forum, involves planting

wild flowers along the verges of the dual carriageway into the town (the Boulevard de St Sebastien sur Loire).

Also, with the Great War centenary in mind, the group would like to see the two roundabouts at each end heavily planted with poppies.

Gary Victor, of Shout, told The GEM: "This project should not be expensive. As far as the verges are concerned, Caerphilly Borough Council has a wonderful wild flower verge on the Treceyndd by-pass.

"Their parks manager was very helpful, and put us in touch with a company that specialises in this work."

He said that he had taken the idea to the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade and to the Royal British Legion, and both had been very supportive.

He had also put the plan to a recent meeting of Porthcawl Town Council.

He said: "It was warmly welcomed, but the council has to consider any possible funding implications."

He said: "If the two roundabouts were seeded with Flanders poppies, together with the wild flowers along the dual carriageway, it would make a huge difference to the impression Porthcawl makes."

He added that the most important player in this scheme would be Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), which maintains the roundabouts and grass verges.

He said: "We have put the plan to BCBC and hope to get a response soon."

## MORRISONS EXIT SHOCK

AS The GEM was going to press, BCBC announced that Morrisons had pulled out of opening a supermarket in Porthcawl.

The council said it had received the news via a telephone call, and that it would be seeking "urgent talks".

MORE ON THIS IN FUTURE WEEKS!

## Arson attack

Police in Bridgend are investigating a suspected arson attack which occurred just after 6.30am on Thursday, December 12.

They say a quantity of paper was set alight outside the front door of a ground floor flat on Hill View in Bryntirion.

The fire service was called and the fire was extinguished. The property suffered superficial damage and the residents

were unharmed.

Detective Sergeant Paul Mason from Bridgend CID said: "We are treating this as arson and want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the vicinity."

Anyone with any information about this incident is asked to contact 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111; quote reference 62130389098.

## ROYAL VISIT SEE PAGES 19 & 23!

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## JEWELLERY STOLEN IN BURGLARY

POLICE are appealing for information following a burglary of a bungalow in North Cornelly between noon and 7pm on Tuesday, December 10, when cash was taken, as well as jewellery belonging to the elderly householder.

It included a heavy 9ct gold oval locket on a belcher chain, a solid gold ingot on a rope chain and a half sovereign also on a gold chain; round gold clip-on earrings, platinum earrings set with rubies and diamonds, and a 9ct gold charm bracelet with semi-precious stones.

Several distinctive rings were also stolen, including a platinum half hoop eternity ring, a Welsh gold ring with a pink diamond surrounded by seed pearls and a diamond cluster engagement ring.

A lady's gold watch, ladies silver Rotary watch and a 9ct gold bracelet with semi-precious stones were also stolen.

Anyone with informa-

tion is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130387724.

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# The Coychurch WI ladies are in a festive mood!

COYCHURCH WI president, Sandra Davidson, welcomed everyone to the recent meeting when a minute's silence was observed, following the sad death of popular member Gaynor West, a friendly and joyful lady who will be sorely missed – but as Gaynor would have said: "The show must go on".

Prior to lunch, members were informed of some of the proposed activities planned for the forthcoming year, and the Coychurch ladies (friends of WI) are planning an 'Ascot Themed Day' with the proceeds to be shared between motor neuron disease and mental health charities.

The vice president and secretary, Sue Elworthy, proudly carried the Coychurch WI banner at the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes 90th anniversary carol festival held in St David's Hall, Cardiff on December 2.

A GFWI massed choir of 200 ladies were joined in the celebrations with guest artists Only Men Aloud and guest soloist, the eminent organist Huw Tregelles Williams, and conductor Alun Tregelles Williams.

The beautiful banner, designed by the late Sheila Clarke, was made many years ago by Miriam Tucker, Shirley Davies and others, with the needlework depicting some well

known and historic buildings and scenes in Coychurch.

The fish and chips lunchtime meeting encompassed a Christmas bazaar with a variety of stalls selling Christmas craft gifts, jewellery, homemade preserves and a selection of Welsh cheeses from the Blaenafon Cheddar Company.

There was a WI 'spectacular entertainment' provided by a troupe of members, Sheila Carr, Mary Evans, Penny Gregory, Ann Jones, Sandra Lazarus and Ann Llewellyn, who, accompanied by pianist Eluned Williams, delighted the audience with their performance.

Inspired by her seven grandchildren with her own composition entitled 'Happy Christmas House Rules' Wendy Hewitt read her wonderful poem to rapturous applause. The fun packed afternoon concluded with the 'Twelve days of Christmas' being interpreted by each table of ladies in turn.

The next meeting will be held in the Williams Memorial Hall on January 7 and will take place at 1.30pm with a 'Beetle Drive'.

Members are asked to bring along a plate of food to contribute towards a buffet table (contact Yvonne Smith on 01656 862355 if you are able to contribute).

New members and guests are always welcome to join us.

## Local museum's Great War plan

THE committee of Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society would like to thank everyone who has offered us support over the last few months following the threat of the losing the museum, owing to BCBC's desire to sell the Old Police Station in John Street, Porthcawl.

As previously stated, we will continue our plans to mark the centenary of the Great War next year at both the museum and the Y Centre.

However, to enable us to clean, re-catalogue and create new displays about Porthcawl and the Great War, we will need to shut the museum to visitors for a short time, starting in the New Year.

This is only a temporary measure and when possible, we will be keeping our office at the museum open to take any enquiries and provide a regular update of the work in progress on our exciting new displays, which contain many previously unseen exhibits from the Great War period.

Early in 2014, we plan to hold a number of smaller exhibitions in

the town to highlight even more specific items.

We are, also, extremely grateful to all those people who have over the last few months donated and loaned us their items from the Great War, many of which will be part of the new exhibition.

Through our research, it is our aim to help people understand what happened in Porthcawl and further appreciate the local stories beyond the trenches.

DAVID SWIDENBANK, Vice chairman, Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, www.porthcawlandthe-greatwar.com.

## Special birthdays for two Guild ladies

IT has been a very busy time for the Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild since my last report.

Our Christmas fayre was very successful and we were able to donate £400 each to Crossroads Care and to Cancer UK Porthcawl.

A lunchtime visit to the Grand Pavilion gave us food for thought. Food in another way was enjoyed by many members at the Cardiff Federation Christmas lunch.

There was yet more eating when 26 members went to the Bridgend Catering College for our

own Christmas lunch – highly recommended.

We also took part in the tree festival, now an established part of Christmas in Porthcawl.

Our December meeting was a time for presentations. After welcoming all members, our chairman Dee Richardson gave flowers to May Rogers and Marie Williams, who were celebrating special birthdays.

Also five members, Evelyn White, Kath Davies, Gwen Watts, Peggy Vince and Dorothy Thomas were presented with 25-year-long service awards.

Entertainment at the party which followed was provided by Mike Boyle, who is always welcome, and then a splendid tea soon disappeared.

Our next meeting is on January 8 at 2pm in All Saints Church Hall, when David Anderson will talk on 'Discovering Austria'.

We would like to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and Good New Year. Your resolution for 2014 must be to visit us and then hopefully join us! For more information, telephone 01656 772157.

DOROTHY THOMAS

## Emotional health course for local young people

AS part of the 'Siaradwn Ni – Let's Talk' Big Lottery-funded programme, a 10-week course organised by Youth Works is starting on Friday, January 17 for emotionally vulnerable young people aged 16-25 in Arc Day Services in Bridgend town centre.

Free of charge for anyone living and/or working in Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot county boroughs, the course aims to provide a programme supporting young people to improve their confidence, self esteem and resilience, allowing them to understand and express their feelings to enable them to cope more effectively with life and stressful situations.

Over the 10 weeks, young people will have the time and space to explore and understand their own emotions through indoor group sessions, outdoor pursuits and residential courses.

A past participant said: "The most important thing I have realised, is that I am not the only person in the world that has been through what I have been through. There are many more people in the same situation as me."

They will be able to gain a nationally recognised qualification (Mental health and mental illness: Agored Cymru (OCN) Level 1).

## CHURCH EVENTS

EVENTS at Aberkenfig Bible Church include:

Sunday, December 22 at 4.30pm. A Christmas tea followed at 5.30pm by a 'Carols by Candlelight' Service.

On Christmas Eve at 11.15pm, there will be a 'Welcome to Christmas' service with Holy Communion.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	07.23	9.4	19.42	9.2
20 Fri	07.55	9.4	20.12	9.3
21 Sat	08.28	9.4	20.47	9.1
22 Sun	09.03	9.0	21.21	8.8
23 Mon	09.36	8.8	21.58	8.5
24 Tues	10.12	8.4	22.41	8.2
25 Wed	11.02	8.3	23.33	7.9
26 Thur	11.52	8.1		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

## Porthcawl Bridge Club latest news

THE annual Porthcawl Bridge Club Christmas party was held recently, and following a fine banquet with lots of wine, a point-a-board teams competition was held.

Congratulations to the winning team of Dian Jones, Kath Grossey, Sue Anthony, and Trish Saunders. Other recent club night results from the club are:

**Saturday, November 30:** First, Terry Dolan and Kate Craven; second, Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

**Monday, December 2:** First, Peter and Sandie Jenkins; second, Trish Saunders and Marian Evans.

Thursday, December

TH

## FILM-MAKERS' AWARD CEREMONY

YOUNG film-makers from across south Wales have been recognised for their outstanding skills at a national awards ceremony.

At the Media4schools awards held at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff this month, ACT Training won the Best Sports Film award for *Introducing Enzo Calzaghe*, while The Cathedral School, Llandaff, won Best Overall Film for *The Cat In The Hat*.

Studio 34, Bridgend, won the Best Overall Film award in the 16 to 18-year-old category for *Double Vision*.

## POST OFFICE MOVE VIEWS ARE SOUGHT

THE Post Office is inviting customers and interested parties to give their comments on its proposal to move Pencoed Post Office from its current location at 13 Penybont Road a short distance away to an established retailer at Premier Stores, 38-40 Penybont Road, subject to a successful public consultation.

The move is part of major modernisation programme across the Post Office network designed to make it easier for customers to do business, through longer opening hours and modern open plan environments.

The investment programme, the largest in the history of Post Office Ltd, will see around 6,000 branches converting to new style branches.

Post Office Regional Network Manager for Wales, Adrian Wales, said: "I am delighted to announce news of an important investment in our service in Pencoed. We know how important the Post Office service is to the town and we feel sure that our customers old and new will welcome the longer opening

hours and modern open plan format. This move will help secure Post Office services in the town for the future."

Submissions can be made on the proposed move through our easy and convenient new online questionnaire at [postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk), by entering the code for this branch: 34261199.

Alternatively, submissions can be made during the consultation by post at *Freepost Your Comments to Post Office Ltd, National Consultation Team, Wealdstone Post Office, 1st Floor, Admin, 4-12 Headstone Drive, Harrow, HA3 5QL; via email to [comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk); via the Customer Helpline: 08457 22 33 44 or Textphone 08457 22 33 55.*

## New 'items charge'

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is to start charging residents for the collection of all bulky waste items, such as carpets, sofas, beds and chairs.

The council currently charges for the collection of some items such as bathroom suites and garden furniture and, under changes agreed by cabinet members, residents will be charged from April 1, 2014 for the collection of all other bulky items too.

The charge for up to three bulky items will be £15 with a £5 charge for each additional item.

## Learning about a Victorian Christmas

PENCOED WI NEWS

HAPPY New Year to everyone, but can anyone tell me what happened to 2013?!

One minute I seemed to be housebound because of the January snow, and the next we are ending the year on a high with our December speaker.

Val Williams (not our president) took us back to a traditional Victorian Christmas and explained how some of the current traditions came about; she is an excellent speaker.

This was followed by 47 members enjoying a selection of Christmas

nibbles, a secret Santa and a special festive raffle.

Our January meeting is on the 14th, and our speaker will be talking about being an Olympic ambassador. Visitors are always welcome to come along and see all that our WI can offer.

Alongside monthly meetings, we also run craft, book, walking and lunch clubs and a theatre group. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 1.45pm to 2pm start until 4.15pm in Pencoed Welfare Hall.

For further information, telephone Val on 01656 862181 or Pat on 01656 860289. PP

## Call for support carers in borough

MORE support carers are being sought by Bridgend County Borough Council to help keep families together.

A spokeswoman explained that Bridgend Support Care is a short-term preventative foster care initiative which aims to be a cost-effective way of supporting families, but more importantly, avoid an increase in the number of children and young people entering long-term care.

"Support carers provide support and guidance for local families who are experiencing difficulties so that the children can still remain with their families, preventing the need for long-term fostering."

"Planned, time-limited short breaks with the support carers are organised for the children, combined with support with the family to promote change."

"Support carers are expected to care for the child/children for a maximum of two overnight stays per week, and only work with each family for a maximum period of four months."

"In recognition of their support and commitment, carers receive a weekly payment."

For more information, call 01656, or visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk/suportcare](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/suportcare).



# Porthcawl & Cynffig school boundaries could be readjusted

**PARENTS and residents are to be consulted on proposals to change the catchment boundary between two comprehensive schools in Bridgend county borough, cabinet members have agreed.**

The boundary between Cynffig Comprehensive and Porthcawl Comprehensive currently splits North Cornelly, with children living on one side of Heol Las falling within one school's catchment, while their neighbours across the road attend the other school.

A Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) spokesman said: "The split is a constant cause of puzzlement for parents, while further confusion is caused by the fact that Corneli Primary School, which is a feeder school for Cynffig Comprehensive, is attended by youngsters living in both

south and north Cornelly.

"To make the catchment areas for the two schools clearer, the council is proposing to shift the boundary so that everyone living in south and north Cornelly will fall within the Cynffig catchment area."

The proposals, if approved following consultation, will be introduced in September 2015 and the change would take seven years to work through as pupils already attending either school by that date will be allowed to complete their education at their existing school.

Children who are entitled to free home to school transport before September 2015 will also continue to receive it for the duration of their education.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "School catchment areas in Bridgend are, in the main, historic and were determined by Mid Glamorgan County Council. We aim to pro-

vide local schools for local children and want to ensure that, wherever possible, children are able to secure a place at their catchment area school.

"The proposed change to the boundary between these two excellent schools would clear up a lot of confusion for parents and would also help to balance out the numbers of surplus places at the schools, as there are currently 414 surplus places in Cynffig and 114 in Porthcawl.

"Amending the catchment boundary between the two schools would help to re-address the balance, and we also have to be mindful of the regeneration that is taking place in Porthcawl, the extra homes that will be built there in the future, and the predicted numbers of extra children living in the town as a result."

The consultation will begin in the New Year and further details will be given at [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk)

# Photographer triumphs in UK competition



*Sophia Campion, winner of the Young Photographer category in the EEF Photography Awards 2013, presented with her award by Sir Richard Brook, Chairman, The ERA Foundation.*

**A YOUNG photographer from Bridgend has won a national photography competition celebrating UK manufacturing.**

Sophia Campion was named as winner of the young photographer category, sponsored by the ERA Foundation, in the EEF 'Made in Britain' Photography Awards 2013, at an exclusive ceremony at the House of Commons in London.

Sophia's image of a bundle of newly made lightweight cotton socks from Corgi Hosiery, a manufacturing business that has been trading continuously for 121 years through four generations, was praised by the judges for its abstract nature with a

terrific mix of lines and colours. The company currently hold the Royal Warrant and this great British product is exported all around the world.

Almost 800 photos were submitted from across the country and 77 were shortlisted.

Terry Scouler, chief executive at EEF, said: "Congratulations to Sophia and everyone who was shortlisted in the awards.

Manufacturing is exciting and constantly evolving, and we are proud of all of our entrants who have helped us redefine the public perception of manufacturing with their eclectic range of images."

## Progress is made on £16.4m mental health unit

**WORK is well under way on the new £16.4 million low secure mental health unit at Glanrhyd Hospital, Bridgend.**

The foundations and ground work are ahead of schedule and a crane is already lifting the steel framework and roof sections into place.

This part of the work should be well advanced by Christmas. The next steps will see the concrete floors laid and brickwork and cladding enclosing the building.

The unit will have 28 en-suite bedrooms replacing out of date multi-bed wards at

Glanrhyd and Cefn Coed Hospitals, and be home to patients detained under the Mental Health Act for a range of challenging behaviours, including self neglect, self harm and aggression.

It will provide patients, who previously had to receive their care as far away as England, with the care and support they need much closer to home and their family.

Gill Thornton, the acting clinical director for mental health, said: "I am delighted with the progress of the low secure unit. It will provide modern, fit for purpose facilities for patients to recover and regain the independence to live at home."

## PORTHCAWL PUPILS' CHRISTMAS SONG

**A GROUP of schoolchildren from Porthcawl have released a Christmas song**

Most of the pupils are still in primary school, and they go by the name, 'The Hollypops'.

Brett Warlow wrote the song and he explained: "The seeds were sown when my daughter, who is in the group, sang the phrase 'Father Christmas is on his way' some years ago in the back of the car.

"Since then the idea has been brewing in my mind."

Brett works in television as a live programme editing engineer, covering such events as the Olympics and Formula 1.

Performed recently on BBC Radio Wales' Chris Needs Show, the song got many feet tapping, and not just those



of eight-year-olds.

Brett added: "When Chris Needs played it he said, 'Well done! Fantastic'. He remarked on air that the children's singing and acting in the song and video is an incentive for other children."

Information on the song can be found on <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/father-christmas-is-on-his-way/id769002976> (iTunes); [www.amazon.co.uk/Father-Christmas-Is-His-Way/dp/B00H0DVGIK/r?ef=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1386421788&sr=8-1&keywords=hollypops](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Father-Christmas-Is-His-Way/dp/B00H0DVGIK/r?ef=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1386421788&sr=8-1&keywords=hollypops) (Amazon); [www.cdbaby.com/cd/lolaand-friends](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/lolaand-friends) (CDBaby) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfL0xsWW5Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfL0xsWW5Q) (video of the 'stars') at YouTube.

## St David's Hall carols 'a great success'

**MYNYDD CYNFFIG WI NEWS**

**ON December 10, Mynydd Cynffig WI held its Christmas party in Pyle and Kenfig church hall.**

WI business was conducted first. Marjorie Goode chaired the meeting and Enid Rymer read the minutes.

Everyone agreed the recent trip to St David's Hall for the carol service with Only Men Aloud was a great success, there were hundreds of WI members attending and the singing of 'Jerusalem' by everyone made the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.

Our Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our next meeting is on January 14 in Pyle and Kenfig church hall. The guest speaker will be Sister Gwyneth Poacher, the topic will be 'Sandville Court'. She will also be picking up a cheque for over £200 as friends of Mynydd Cynffig WI.

With the business over, the party commenced!.

CC

**Did you know you can read your GEM online? [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)**

## Church plans centenary celebrations

**ALL Saint's Church, Porthcawl, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2014.**

Lots of events are planned throughout the year including a 'bake-off' style competition, a 1914-themed tea party, a carnival float, and, very importantly, a celebration Mass in February.

The organisers are looking for contributions of photographs/memories from people who have had association with All Saint's - perhaps you were christened there, or you were married there.

If anyone has had any connection with All Saint's, please contact the parish office on 01656 786899 or talk to Sian Jones/Maggie Masson. Please join us to make it a centenary to remember.

JUDITH SHAW

## Colwinston folk respond to the Operation Christmas Child appeal - again!

**COLWINSTON village has supported the Shoe Box appeal for the fifth year running - last month, a production line was set up in the village hall and 65 boxes were wrapped, filled and labeled.**

After showing the pupils at St David's School the DVD of the children receiving boxes at Christmas, the pupils made up a further 40 boxes.

Colwinston Brownies sent in 10 and with 20 shoe boxes from other villagers, the grand total was 135.

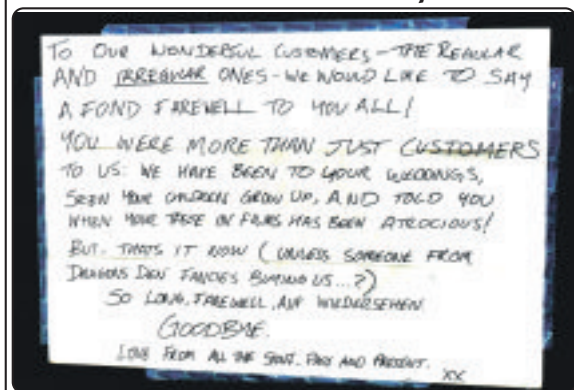
Donations towards the transport cost were made by the village hall committee, the Colwinston Players, Miskin Masonic Lodge and individuals, totalling £310.

Several ladies and their husbands have worked voluntarily at the warehouse in Treforest checking, sorting and packing the boxes and so far 22,200 boxes have been sent to Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia and Romania.

A wonderful effort from this small Vale village and a big thank you to everyone involved who will make a child smile at Christmas.

KJ

## A sign of the times - but with a touch of class



*Given the inexorable rise of the internet, it was no great surprise when the Blockbuster chain found that its business model had been overtaken by technology. Nevertheless, losing a job just before Christmas is a bitter blow for anyone. This makes the message (above) from Blockbuster staff in Bridgend to all their former customers a particularly gracious response to hard times. With their attitude to customer service, they would surely be an asset to any other retailer!*

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# Bridgend's Elf gathering is becoming *the* way to welcome the Christmas festivities

PHOTOGRAPHS  
by **GLYN EVANS**

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Telephone 07791 228684  
[www.ffotoimage.co.uk](http://www.ffotoimage.co.uk)

THE organisers of Bridgend's 'Elfsteddfod' were not content to rest upon their world record laurels last Saturday (December 14).

They set out to improve on last year's total of 1,200 elves gathered in Adare Street, and this year they counted a further 120 or so, pushing the total past 1,300!

It all meant for a festive occasion that really put people in the mood for Christmas!





# Local singer who conquered West End stage supports Welsh stars of the future

**THE local star of a string of hit West End shows, Peter Karrie, has launched his new album 'Standing Alone' in Cardiff, writes TIM CHAPMAN.**

It is the latest chapter in a whirlwind career that catapulted the Bridgend and Vale born and bred performer to the West End stage – and on to Canada, America and the Far East.

Thoughts of home are never too far away for Peter (67) who told The GEM: "I was born in Bridgend General Hospital and raised in the village of Llanmaes. My nan had Church Farm and I was brought up milking the cows by hand!

"In fact, the cows in the cowshed were my first audience. I was useless on the technical side of farming, and they used to give me a spade and wheelbarrow to clean out the sheds. While I was there, I'd sing to the cows!"

Later, he lived in Barry and attended Romilly Junior School, enjoying great summers down at Cold Knap.

As a teenager, Peter went on to form a band in the Vale called 'Peter and the Wolves', featuring pals Alan Godfrey, Ricky Metcalfe, John Wedlake and John Forsythe.

"We played all over the place, including at the Farmers Arms in Aberthin, John Wedlake's father's pub.

"We went on to open for Billy Jay Kramer,

and for the Rolling Stones at the Capitol in Cardiff."

Peter's route to West End stardom took a circuitous journey from a summer season in Newquay in Cornwall, up to Bernard Manning's Embassy Club in the north of England, and down to London, where he slept on park benches while an agency sought work for the ambitious young Welshman.

"I got the part of understudy in a Ray Cooney rock musical. I had one chance to go on and impress and by chance, the producer Stephen Bentink, was in the audience and he put me into a musical about James Dean."

That led the impresario Robert Stigwood to cast him as Judas in

*Jesus Christ Superstar.*

"I got to know the producer, Bob Swash, who was a lovely man and became a second father to me – he was the producer of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita* – I did the first national tour of *Evita* as Che Guevara."

Peter became a world star and was voted 'best Phantom' by the Phantom of the Opera Appreciation Society. He starred in the show for 10 years, and in *Les Miserables* as Jean Valjean for five years, touring as far afield as British Columbia, America, Hong Kong and Singapore.

During his marathon West End runs, Peter did not just need singing talent, stamina also played an important part.

"It was exhausting. During 'Phantom' and *Les Miserables* I used to sit down on Sundays and just watch the world go by."

Peter lived in London and Somerset for many years, but the lure of south Wales proved too great and he returned home and now lives in Tonypre.

He is as busy as ever, anxious to put something back into the south Wales theatrical and music scene and create stars of the future.

He is currently running workshops of his

musical *Rasputin* at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, a project sponsored by the Arts Council of Wales.

"I'm also doing a 'Small Hall Tour' at town halls as fundraisers which involve getting local people up on the stage." His next performance is at Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon on December 21.

Despite more than 50 years of performing, he is as enthusiastic as ever and enjoyed the new album launch at Porters Bar in Cardiff.

"We had a good turnout and some great performers like Amy Wadge, who collaborates with Ed Sheeran, Harriet Whitehouse from 'The Voice' and the Nigel Hart Big Noise Band. I performed eight songs from the album."

Peter's album 'Standing Alone' is available at his official site, <http://peterkarrie.com/>, or from iTunes or Amazon. <http://peterkarrie.com/>

## Santa returns to the Sandville



A regular festive feature at the Sandville Self-Help Centre is Santa's Grotto, and this year it is looking good, and offering a welcome to visitors young and old – as this photograph by Keith E Morgan shows!

## Fly grazing Bill is set to become law

**THE Minister for Natural Resources and Food, Alun Davies AM, has welcomed the passing of a Bill that will give Wales the legal powers to tackle the problem of fly grazing head on.**

The next stage is for the Bill to go before Her Majesty the Queen for Royal Assent in January 2014.

Welcoming the approval of the Bill, Alun Davies said: "We have brought forward this Bill in response to incidences of fly grazing right across Wales that simply cannot be allowed to continue.

"Our local authorities, police and animal welfare charities have called for urgent action and we have responded swiftly to that call."

The Control of Horses (Wales) Bill was passed by the National Assembly for Wales on December 10.

The Minister introduced a fast track Bill to tackle fly grazing on October 14 following calls for urgent action from local authorities, animal welfare charities and the police.

The Control of Horses (Wales) Bill was passed by the National Assembly for Wales on December 10.

with issues of traceability, identification, irresponsible ownership, tethering and the regulation of sanctuaries all needing continued action from Wales' decision-makers in 2014.

RSPCA national director for Wales and lead on equine issues, Steve Carter, said:

"We have been very pleased to work closely with the Welsh Government and Assembly Members during this Bill's legislative journey and are delighted that this law is now set to become a reality."

## Pencoed Comprehensive School celebrates another jump in 'banding' ranking

**THE head, staff and governors at Pencoed Comprehensive School are delighted at news from the Welsh Government on the school's banding status.**

As of December 12, Pencoed Comprehensive is in Band 2.

David George, headteacher, said: "I am delighted at the continuous and constant progress being made by the school.

"In 2011, we were in Band 5, moving up to Band 3 last December.

"The improvement in our banding is a direct result of the dedication and effort being made by staff at all levels.

"Everyone here at the school is extremely pleased that we are now in Band 2".

Andy Rea, chair of governors, personally thanked staff for their efforts, saying: "Moving to Band 2 is evidence of their hard work and that of the pupils. Parents and governors are extremely proud".

**Did you know you can read your GEM online? [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)**

### Santa in the pool!

**THERE will be a Christmas Wonderland pool party at Maesteg Swimming Pool tomorrow (December 20), from 4pm-5pm.**

Entry is free. Father Christmas will be there – and he will be magically turning the pool icy blue for this special occasion!

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# Star Ospreys 'open' St John's rugby posts

**ST JOHN'S School, Porthcawl, recently welcomed Ospreys Eli Walker and Dan Baker who officially 'opened' the new rugby posts and post protectors donated by the Friends of St John's.**

The Ospreys stars congratulated Dylan Jones on being selected for the Wales B&G Club under-16s squad and Ashford Thomas on playing for the Cardiff Blues.

Ashford is following in the footsteps of former St John's flanker Josh Navidi.

The visit proved to be inspirational to the under-16s squad, who later in the week won a very exciting game against Christ College Brecon 34-31. Ashford scored four tries and Dylan two.

CBB have offered



Dylan a sixth form A-Level rugby scholarship for next year.

The school team and everyone at St John's would also like to pass on their best wishes to another ex-St John's player Luke Morgan, who is currently with the Wales Sevens side in South Africa.

## STAN RUMBLE: 'A heartfelt tribute to a modest man'

**THE community of Kenfig Hill was shocked and saddened by the recent sudden death of Stan Rumble, the chairman of the local older people's group - Shout.**

The secretary of Kenfig Hill Shout, Lynne Bunston, paid the following personal tribute:

Stan was a very well respected and loved man by his family, friends and all those who he helped over the years.

It was a very sad day, the day Stan passed away. Everyone was so shocked as it was so sudden. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Stan helped an enormous number of people. He was chairman of Kenfig Hill and district Shout, and vice-chairman of County Shout, helping the over-50s organisation.

He was also on the care and repair board, and was in contact with the council, the supporting people scheme, fire brigade, trading standards and many more who attended our Shout meetings each month.

Stan was asked to attend meetings at Llys Ton and worked hard to get the message across about the south Wales programme, dealing with the changes in our hospitals.

He was held in high esteem by Carwyn Jones AM, and also by the Wales Commissioner for Older People, Sarah Rochira.

He was always happy to stop and help the man or woman on the street.

**Read your GEM online - bridgend-today.co.uk**

### OBITUARY

He was never happier than when he was helping someone and he cared enough to see it through to the end.

Stan was a gentleman but he didn't take kindly when being praised, the answer was always the same: "I'm Nobody and I do it because I want to." But he was somebody, he was the kindest, most thoughtful and (often) stubborn man you will ever meet.

Once you knew him

you thought he'd always been in your life - that's the person he was. Stan had a big heart and shared it with many people - whoever they were.

There will only ever be one Stan Rumble and no-one can fill his shoes, there will be a void in the world now he has gone.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big "Thank You" on behalf of all the people he helped, to the man who said "I'm Nobody".

## Town window dressing awards

**WINNERS of the Bridgend Town Council window dressing competition were as follows:**

**Shops:** Ty Hafan Store, The Rhiw Centre; Eclectic Vintage Boutique, Dunraven Place; T&H Morris Butchers, Dunraven Place; The Wicked Lady pub, Park Street.

**Rhiw Market Stalls:** Peter Wood & Sons, Butchers; Daffodil Gifts.

## Who wants to build what and where?

DV Architects - The Wyndham Arms, building consisting 14 Bridgend - 3 x amenity board, 3 x menu cases, 2 x plaques, 1 internally illuminated projecting, 16 x floodlights and 2 x fascia.

Mr M Kaye (head-teacher) - Croesty Primary School, Coychurch Road, Pencoed - reduce crowns of four Hornbeams and two Silver Birch by 30 per cent and remove dead wood.

Bright Skies Development Ltd - 9 Penprysg Road, Pencoed - proposed new detached two-bed dwelling on land to the rear.

Mr Paul Green - 50 Angleton Green, Pen-y-Fai - new four-bedroom dwelling.

DV Architects - The Valleys to Coast Housing - 2-146 (evens) Waunscil Avenue, Brackla - external wall insulation and render system and associated roof mounted photovoltaics.

Garw Valley Links - 107 Oxford Street, Pontycymer - change of use from library to mixed use (church hall, place of worship, drop-in centre, food bank).

The Salty Spud Limited - The Boathouse Fish Bar, 36 Esplanade, Porthcawl - installation of extraction unit on roof and new shop front.

Mr and Mrs G Symons - 48 Ysbyrd y Coed, Pen-y-Fai - proposed conservatory.

Westward Community Centre - Llangewydd Road, Bridgend - change of use of parcel of land to community garden.

Mr Griff Williams - Ty Capel, Glynogwr, Blackmill - retention of extension as built (amendment to previously approved P/12/550/FUL).

Hafod Housing Association - Carey Baptist Chapel, Aberkenfig - demolish existing church building and erect two-storey building consisting 14 one and two-bed apartments.

Vivard Ltd - Waun Wen, Bettws Road, Llangeingor - development of two dwelling houses from an extension to a private driveway.

Waterstone Homes - The Coychurch Road, Pencoed - amend house types plots 8, 9 and 11 and alterations to plots 6 and 7 (previously approved PP/13/244/FUL).

Bright Skies Developments - 12 Coychurch Road, Pencoed - convert and extend existing residential property into four one-bedroom flats.

DV Architects - The Wyndham Arms, Dunraven Place - internal redecoration and reconfiguration, and external repairs and redecoration.

Mr D Hubbard - 73 High Street, Laleston - demolish existing bungalow and construct new dormer bungalow on plot.

Mrs C Jones - 23 Sanderling Way, Porthcawl - single storey rear extension and front porch.

Mr Mark Reilly - 2 Bower Street, Kenfig Hill - single storey side extension.

AD and RE and CP James - Plots 1 and 2, Bryn Road, Ogmores Vale - relax time condition on P/08/918/FUL to extend the time to commence works for further five years.

Mrs V Shankland - 5 Bridgend Road, Porthcawl - proposed single storey extension to rear.

BCBC Regeneration Team - land next to Pier Hotel, Esplanade, Porthcawl - change of use from vacant land to temporary private car park for berth holders in Porthcawl marina.

Mrs G Evans - Foxdale, Blackmill Road, Lewiston - amendments to approved garage to include storage space in roof with a dormer window.

Mr H Janes - Minffrwd Stables, Minffrwd Road, Pencoed - retain use of land for siting of caravans for residential purposes for one gypsy pitch with hardstanding, utility/day room.

HD Ltd - The Coach House, Derwen Road, Bridgend - internal and external redecoration works, minor internal partition adjustments, new entrance door to rear.

Mr S and Mrs A Vaughan - 16 St Johns Drive, Porthcawl - single storey side and rear extension.

BCBC Property Services - Rhiw Indoor Market, off Water Street, Bridgend - replace roof with higher roof to allow new sky lights and replace with natural vents and new sunpipes.

Mr Tony Ludlow - The Old Dairy, rear of 138 Caerau Road, Maesteg - change of use of dairy to form new dwelling.

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Paul, Louise and Gail would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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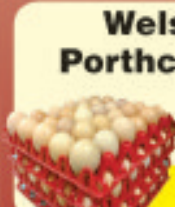
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# Duke of Edinburgh students set a new record



Cellan receives a donation to his Paralympic fund.

**THIS** year, Brynteg School has seen its largest number of students ever completing their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The school boasts 117 students, gaining either the bronze or silver award which is the highest number of completed DofE awards of any school in the county.

Each student had to work on a skill, a physical recreation and a volunteering endeavour for a period of three, six or 12 months, depending on their level of award.

This is then followed by the actual expedition which requires a great deal of training and preparation before they are able to walk unaccompanied in the countryside.

The pupils who suc-

cessfully completed the awards were invited to attend a presentation evening at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen School, Bridgend on November 27. After receiving their awards they enjoyed a well-deserved evening of fun and refreshments.

Also at the presentation evening were Brynteg teachers Mr Vince Brown and Mrs Rebecca Bevan, who run and coordinate the D of E award programme. They are ably supported by other members of staff including Mr Adam Buller and Mr Adrian Davies.

Delighted Brynteg staff paid tribute to everyone involved and commented: "We would like to thank all of the parents and carers who



supported the pupils during the programme, right through to the completion of their awards, for their willingness to transport pupils to various activities and their overall encouragement for the young people to fulfil the required sections.

We have really enjoyed working with so many committed, enthusiastic and determined Brynteg students."

## Bradley wins Tae Kwon Do gold

IT has been a busy few weeks for 14-year-old Bradley Chatman, a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive School.

Last month, Bradley competed in the Welsh Tae Kwon Do Championships and became the Welsh Middleweight champion.

Since then, he has started training with the Welsh squad and took part in the British Tae Kwon Do Championships which was held at the Metropolitan University (previously UWIC) in Cardiff at the end of November.

Bradley once again competed in the individual event in the middleweight red/blue category and after winning his first few bouts, was unfortunately knocked out of the British title race but was pleased to be among the top entrants in the country. It was an accomplished performance and a great incentive for next year.

Having done so well in the individual, Bradley was then selected as a member of the Welsh Tag team and this time triumphed, his team winning the Gold medal by beating teams from all over the UK. It was a great result and a superb way to end the competition.

Bradley's family are understandably delighted and proud of his achievements and paid tribute to Bradley's training coaches Steve and Pat Tottle who teach Tae Kwon Do classes at Brackla

Community Centre on Mondays and at Archbishop McGrath School on Wednesdays.

They have played an integral part in Bradley's success and inspire many young people to take part in this fast growing popular sport.

## Nathan and Claire join national choir

RECENTLY, Brynteg School pupils Nathan Alexander of year-8 and Claire Williams of year-10 performed in the 'Stagecoach Live in Swansea' music and dance concert at The Grand Theatre where they represented The Stagecoach Welsh Senior Choir.

The choir showcased their vocal talents as they sang songs from Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep', Jonathan Larson's 'Seasons of Love' and a medley of songs from the musicals.

Their selection for the choir was as a result of recent auditions where they were up against some real talent from all over Wales. Both were successful and made it through to the Welsh Senior Choir.

There will be further concerts in the New Year and next September, they are really excited at the prospect of singing with the choir at Ground Zero, New York and on Broadway.

## Students visit International Data Centre

RECENTLY, Mr David Pearce, a computing teacher at Brynteg Comprehensive School accompanied 10 GCE advanced level comput-

er studies students on an educational visit to the Cardiff International Data Centre in Cardiff.

On arrival, the students were given a briefing on the various disciplines and career options available in the computing industry and were then taken on a tour of the data centre.

The students were able to take part in some exercises and later were divided into three small groups where each group had the opportunity to meet and talk with computing professionals.

The computer experts consisted of a 'Java' developer, a 'user interface designer' and an 'infrastructure manager' who explained their roles within the company.

The students found the tour an invaluable experience and enjoyed taking part in the exercises which they found interesting, useful and informative. Meeting the professionals was an added benefit and gave them a real insight into the working of the computing industry.

Ronan Miles, the company director of donation and payment development said: "This is our first engagement with school students and the template we have produced will be now be used for future secondary school visits."

Teacher David Pearce commented: "Our visit to the BT Data Centre was excellent. The students thought the day was great and a worthwhile exercise."

"I would definitely go again as the students gained some knowledge and understanding just by watching and listening to the professionals who are currently working at the forefront of the industry."

## Friends fundraise for Cellan

CELLAN HALL, a year-11 pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive School who suffers from Cerebral Palsy Diplegia, is raising money in the hope to achieve his Paralympic dream.

Cellan represents Wales at table tennis and is part of the GB development squad.

Along with family and friends, Cellan has been involved in a number of fundraising activities including bag packing at Sainsburys.

In October, in support of his quest to represent his country a group of young men and women, Lloyd Hughes, Laura Butler, Rhys Adams, Vicky Potts, Rhys Davies and Ryan Blanche, took part in the Cardiff Half Marathon. The men ran a gruelling 13.2 miles wearing just their Speedos to raise as much money as possible. They succeeded in raising £1,350 for Cellan which will go towards funding a new sports wheelchair which will allow him to compete at the highest levels of competition.

Lloyd Hughes and Rhys Adams visited Brynteg in person to present the cheque to a delighted Cellan. This should go a long way towards helping Cellan fulfil his ambition of representing Great Britain at the 2016 Paralympics in Brazil.

Brynteg's last Olympic success was cyclist Nicole Cooke who won a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics. Hopefully in 2016 there will be another Brynteg pupil taking on the world's best.

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# Breaking the link between poverty and the lack of academic success

**AS we enter the Christmas season, many have been reflecting on the life of Nelson Mandela, a great leader and inspiration to so many people across the world.**

His example of courage, wisdom, compassion and leadership has influenced the world and set standards that I believe we must live up to.

His message of forgiveness and reconciliation is as important as ever in our world, torn by conflict and the abuse of power.

His example was to show how he could use his powerful influence to

such great effect before and after his Presidency. That legacy will live on and we can draw from it as we seek to serve and make our contributions towards a fairer, more peaceful world.

On Sunday afternoon, a group of us joined Coun Rob Curtis and the Mayors of Barry Town Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Coun Claire Curtis and Coun Margaret Wilkinson to plant a new oak tree in Porthkerry Park, beneath an old oak near the road to the play area and cafe, in memory of Mandela.

The rain cleared as we made our own personal tributes and planted the tree and I hope this will become a special place in the Vale to visit and reflect on the

life of Nelson Mandela.

Last week, I visited a new primary school on the Sandfields estate in Port Talbot to announce a £200m boost to the Welsh Government's 21st century schools programme, which will benefit children and young people in schools across Wales, including the Vale.

As I visited classrooms, the older children were motivated, enthusiastic, attendance was up and the parental engagement was good. This is why I am determined to use every lever and new power at my disposal, to boost our schools' capital programme, which in itself will boost jobs and growth and help to improve the educational attainment of our children in Wales.

Last week, the Welsh Government's Budget for 2014-15 was approved by AMs. It delivers our key priorities for the whole of Wales.

Our overriding priority is to boost economic growth and create jobs. Over the last year we have seen employment, unemployment and economic inactivity rates in Wales move in a positive direction and out-

perform the UK average. Our flagship Jobs Growth Wales programme, designed to tackle youth unemployment has already created over 9,000 job opportunities for young people across Wales.

We are investing an additional £12.5m in 2015-16 to extend Jobs Growth Wales into a fourth year – taking the total number of job opportunities created for young people from 12,000 to 16,000.

Investing in our young people, breaking the link between poverty and educational achievement and improving educational attainment is a key priority.

It starts with investment in the early years, which is why we are making an additional £11m available over the next two years for Flying Start – investing in quality pre school childcare and parental support, with new centres opening in the Vale as a result of our extra Welsh Government funding.

We are also extending the support we give to disadvantaged children by increasing the pupil deprivation grant in 2014-15 from £450 per

pupil to £918. This will make a huge difference in our schools with the highest number of children eligible for free school meals.

As well as investing in more affordable housing across the Vale for those in housing need, we have also launched our all Wales £170m Help to Buy scheme, which will make home ownership easier for buyers of new homes who have small cash deposits.

We are also mitigating the cuts to supporting people, which helps some of the most vulnerable people in our communities in the Vale.

This week, I was pleased to join my colleagues in the Vale Council, the Leader, Coun Neil Moore, and Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, with Richard Keogh from the Waterfront Partnership Consortium, to announce the Welsh Government financing of the new road to Barry Island.

This funding was also secured in the Budget last week. Our Budget is both realistic and financially prudent, but also ambi-

tious in achieving the outcomes we want to see for the Vale and for Wales, now and in the longer term.

We want to secure a balanced recovery which delivers skills and job opportunities for our young people and supports our businesses and disadvantaged communities.

*May I wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas with new opportunities for the New Year particularly for those who have needed the support and backing of the Welsh Government, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the third sector, through tough and difficult times.*

## Assembly Notes



by Vale AM  
**JANE HUTT**

(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

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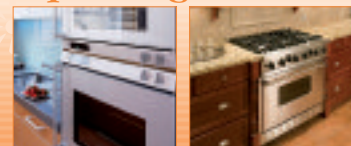
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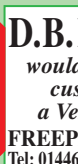
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# Rotary ladies help out Porthcawl charity

**TABERNACLE CHAPEL, Porthcawl, was the venue for a world-changing event on Thursday, December 12, when Carol Lowery the president of the Rotary Club's 'Inner Wheel' group presented a loading buggy to the 'Tools for Self**

**Reliance' workshop.**

Why world-changing? Well, because the charitable group concerned changes lives in Africa – and hence (hopefully) the world!

Tools for Self Reliance is a nationwide organisation staffed by volunteers who restore old tools for Africa, and in Porthcawl, a dedicated group works contributing refurbished

tools to the national organisation.

Mark James chaired the proceedings. The event coincided with a visit by staff from Tools For Self Reliance's headquarters in Southampton.

Ian Limbrick the group's co-ordinator spoke of his recent visit to partners in Tanzania, and how the setting up of their small businesses had transformed their lives.

A video was shown of our tools being used in a machinist tailoring group and a metal work fabrication workshop.

David Cook, the local workshop manager, spoke of the quality of tool renovation, with examples of a few restored tools.

Pam Murden explained what goes into a haberdashery kit, and had a small exhibition, with a promise of more materials to come. A cheque for £250 was given to Ian to help our crates on their way and sponsor some of the training.

After tea and cakes, there was a tour of the workshop facilities, and with the help of the newly-gifted loading buggy from Inner Wheel, nine crates of tools were loaded, along with 10 haberdashery kits and 13 sewing machines – some of



**PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN**

**ABOVE:** On the right of the picture are the Inner Wheel ladies, Carol Lowery (president of the Porthcawl branch) with fellow members Dee Richardson, Sheila Burge, Monica Balkwill, and Gill Edwards. Seated are the supporters of Tools for Self Reliance in Porthcawl.

which had been renovated by Porthcawl volunteers.

The loading buggy will help shift crates around the workshop and yard.

Desmond Tutu and John Sentamu are the current patrons. There are over 60 workshop groups across the country renovating old tools.

They specialize in training and equipping through their registered partners so that men and women in Africa can earn their own living and lift themselves out of

poverty.

The local workshop meet three afternoons a week and can be contacted through the 'Sussed' shop in Porthcawl, the website TFSR.org or on 01656 786367 for the local workshop, collections and volunteers.

This group in a small way contributes to the Millennium Development Goals for 2015, so in a small way is indeed world changing.

**Report by John Hanson**



**RIGHT:** Mark James, the chairman of the Bridgend branch of TFSR, with the loading buggy.

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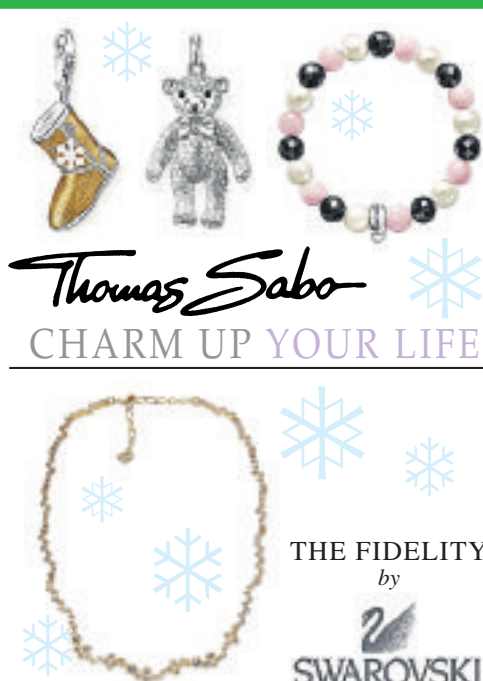
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# Bus cuts are a big issue in the Vale

**O**F all the issues that I have raised since being elected, few have gained as much public support as the campaign to oppose cuts to bus services across Barry and the rural Vale.

I have held three public meetings – two in Barry and one in Rhosee and was amazed by the attendance. Two weeks ago, I initiated a petition calling for changes, which led to around 1,500 signatures (with thanks to a number of key campaigners) and next Monday, I will meet Cardiff Bus and Watts Coaches to challenge them on the changes and further potential cuts.

This is not a party-

political matter. It is an issue that leaves some of the most vulnerable in our community stranded; it undermines our High Streets because shoppers cannot access town centres; it will put more pressure on social services to provide community carers to those who cannot get out; young people have difficulty getting to school; employees are not able to get to work and jobseekers cannot attend interviews.

Pensioners will be left with bus passes without buses to travel on. The cuts make no sense and nothing but anger is felt when the empty T9 Airport express service passes every 20 minutes at a cost of £470,000.

The background to the cuts relates to the changes the Welsh

Government has made to the Bus Operating Grant. This generally subsidised the fuel.

On top of this, the Vale Council reduced its support for specified routes it had previously deemed as essential. The Welsh Government have cut subsidies for buses more than the UK government in England.

Now there is a third factor. Negotiations are under way between the Welsh Government and bus operators over the fees paid to bus companies for every pensioner that travels using their pass.

Under current arrangements, bus companies receive 73.9 per cent of the average adult fare. There are proposals to cut this by up to 20 per cent.

This would have a huge implication on the viability of so many routes where pensioners are the greatest users.

I have previously highlighted the impact on

Rhosee village, where a community has almost been left moribund.

Yet the latest service under threat is the 98 bus that serves Highlight Park, Cwm Talwg, Buttrills and Barry town centre – highly populated areas. It will not run between December 24 and January 4 because it will be restricted to a Saturday service – when it doesn't run!

All in all it seems to me that the decisions have been taken by people who don't use public transport.

I have drafted an action plan to press for changes, which is available on my website or by calling my Barry office.

If we press the Welsh Government and the Vale councillors, I have no doubt that we will be able to drive change. I understand that the T9 is likely to be cut back and that the negotiations on the bus pass rate to bus companies look better than

they did previously.

It is only by coming together we can deliver the changes to protect our communities.

I had hoped to use this last column before Christmas and New Year to be upbeat. I have witnessed fantastic community work from a range of organisations over the last year. When this is combined with a recovering economy, the future looks bright. Sadly, nonsensical bus cuts had to take priority.

*I wish you a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.*



**Vale MP Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

## Busy festive day for members of Southerndown WI

**DURING the first week of December, many members of Southerndown WI enjoyed their Christmas meal in the Ogmere Tea Rooms.**

On December 12, the Link carol service in All Saint's Church, Southerndown, was well attended by members and guests from our Link WIs, Merthyr Mawr, Penllyn and District and Colwynston and Llyswoorney. Father Phillip Morris

led the service of nine readings and carols and our singing was accompanied by Elizabeth Morgan on organ.

The excellent facilities in All Saint's Church enabled us to offer mulled wine, fruit juice and mince pies after the service.

The next meeting of Southerndown WI will be held on Thursday, January 9, in St Brides Major Church Hall at 7.15pm, when Thelma Taylor will be talking about handbags.

PM

**Your chance to win a £100 voucher to spend at any independent baby shop in the Vale of Glamorgan!**

**Are you expecting a Christmas Day or New Year's Day baby?**

*IF so, The GEM would love to hear your good news and share it with other readers!*

*We will publish a picture of your newborn and a story of the happy arrival, FREE of charge.*

*From all 'newborns' received, we will choose (at random) a winner, who will receive a £100 voucher to spend at an independently-owned baby/children's shop in The GEM's distribution area.*

*To enter: Send your photos/article, preferably by email, along with a contact telephone number, for publication in The GEM.*

*• Closing date is the last day in January.*

*Normal competition rules apply.*

## Three appear on drugs offences

**THREE men have been charged with drugs offences, following police raids in Bridgend and Barry.**

Adrian Hawkins (47) from Sarn in Bridgend, has been charged with possession of Class C drugs and CS spray. He has been released on bail and will appear before Bridgend Magistrates Court on December 23.

David Prosser (42) from Barry has been charged with possession with intent to supply Class B drugs and has been released on bail.

Mark Norman (39) from Barry has been charged with possession with intent to supply heroin and remanded in custody.

## Police on sign language course

**POLICE officers and Police Community Support Officers from South Wales Police have successfully completed a 10-week British Sign Language (BSL) course at the Vale Deaf Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT) meetings.**

*The next Vale Deaf PACT meeting is taking place on March 13 at 6.30pm at Barry Fire Station, Port Road West, Barry.*

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Home fete

CARTREE PORTCERI residential home, Barry, is holding a Christmas fete to raise funds for the residents on Saturday, December 21 (1pm - 3pm). Bric-a-brac, sherry and mince pies, books, raffles. All welcome.

## Festive coffee

THERE will be a Christmas coffee morning at Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, December 21 at 10am to 12pm. The entrance fee is £3 which includes a cup of tea/coffee with a mince pie/shortbread biscuit. There will be a cake stall, book stall and some bric-a-brac and a raffle. Everyone welcome.

## Penarth services

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding special services this Christmas.

On Sunday, December 22 at 10am, family

Nativity service, featuring performances by both the Sunday school and youth group (creche available).

At 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Christmas Eve, crib services for younger families at 2pm and 4pm; 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day, Holy Communion at 8am, family communion at 10am.

St Peter's, Old Cogan (off Sully Road) carol service on December 22 at 3.30pm. Holy Communion at 11am on Christmas Day.

For more information visit [www.allssaintspe-narth.org.uk](http://www.allssaintspe-narth.org.uk).

## Festive carols

NEW Jerusalem Church (opposite the new library) is celebrating Christmas with a carol service on Sunday, December 22 at 3pm led by Rev Tony Smith. All are welcome.

There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

## Christmas at Holy Trinity

AT 6pm on Sunday, December 22, there will be an interactive Christmas service, led by the Rev Duncan Ballantyne.

Carols will be accompanied by the Barry Brass Band.

At 8am on Christmas morning, the Rev Ballantyne will lead a service celebrating the birth of Jesus. He said: "We know it's early, but it's a lovely way to start the day and children are invited to bring along one of their presents to show everyone." All are welcome.

## Surgeries open

GP surgeries, pharmacies and dentists are open as normal December 24, 27, 31.

## Merthyr Dyfan

A CHRISTMAS Eve service of 'Carols by Candlelight' will be held in Barry church of Merthyr Dyfan for families at 2.30pm.

Christmas Day, carols and sung Mass 8.45am.

## Beach

FRIENDS of Barry beaches are appealing for volunteers to join them on their Boxing Day beach clean at Knap beach, meeting at the earlier time of 2.30pm.

Volunteers are being encouraged to wear their trendy festive pullovers. The best jumper will win Fairtrade chocolates. Gloves, bags and litter pickers will be provided.

# Smaug breathes fire into The Hobbit franchise!

WHILE not met with the same

glowing reviews that came with his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Peter Jackson's opening *Hobbit* salvo, *An Unexpected Journey*, went down well with many cinemagoers, all of whom were looking forward to finding out how the story would continue.

Well the wait is over and *The Desolation of Smaug* now reaches cinemas, the story picking up from the end of ... *Journey* as we follow Bilbo (Martin Freeman) and his dwarf companions as they continue on their mission to get their home, and their gold, back. The catch?

There's a enormous dragon named Smaug (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch) who won't be easily parted from it... While a money spinner, there was a heavy sense of anti-climax when *An Unexpected Journey* debuted 12 months ago. For those who were looking forward to seeing Middle Earth under Peter Jackson's direction, the first installment of this *Hobbit* trilogy seemed

to lack the verve and bite of his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

However, *The Desolation of Smaug* writes those wrongs, the film pacier, more urgent and definitely not short of bite or excitement - if Jackson was holding back in ... *Journey* then the shackles are most definitely off this time.

A cute flashback scene kicks off proceedings, but after this, it's a case of pedal to the metal as the story kicks into gear and doesn't let up. After the sense of setting up characters and building story strands that came with the first film, this effort feels lighter and more sprightly.

We still meet yet more characters (and if you were hoping for some dwarf development then you'll be left a little short, if you'll pardon the pun), but these are introduced with skill and aplomb, the film benefiting greatly from the lack of heavy lifting.

While elements of the story have been stretched and added to fill the running time of nearly three hours, the changes feel natural and greatly benefit the story, particularly the introduction of the elves and how events will bring them into the plot.

Similarly, *An Empire Strikes Back*-esque splitting of the characters



by GARETH JAMIESON  
Follow Screen  
Talk on Twitter -  
@GEMScreenTalk

actually gives some more breathing space and time to shine.

The cast are all in good form, though Martin Freeman's lead turn is truly wonderful, the happy-go-lucky Bilbo starting to fray at the edges due to the struggles he is enduring while the effects of the gold ring in his waistcoat pocket are starting to show through the personality, Freeman conveys this wonderfully well.

Richard Armitage is a much more authoritative Thorin here too, his turn capturing the weariness of leading his people

and the weight of decisions made, while Evangeline Lilly makes for a strong female character in the form of elf Tauriel, giving an impressive physical performance.

Peter Jackson easily knows his way around Middle Earth by now, but while ... *Journey* seemed a little staid and Sunday tea-time TV special, ... *Smaug* has all the tricks that Jackson at his best can offer.

The action sequences, in particular the climax and a barrel escape (which, in 3D, feels a little too computer generated) have a wow factor, while the director's bad taste doesn't stay hidden with some gloriously dark moments showing both sides of his visual sense.

Perhaps most impressive of all is Smaug himself; voiced with villainous relish by Benedict Cumberbatch, and rendered impeccably by the computer boffins, Jackson and his team manage to make an evil dragon both believable and scarily realistic.

While the CGI elsewhere sometimes fail to

keep up with the pace of what is being shown, in *Smaug* you have a truly superb example of the power of technology.

With a cliffhanger ending leaving you wanting more, and with plenty more epic battles ahead, *The Desolation of Smaug* delivers the goods and then some, wiping away the underwhelming feeling of *An Unexpected Journey* and teasing up *There and Back Again* with no little style.

VERDICT: Like many sequels it goes darker and more serious, but *The Desolation of Smaug* still manages to retain a sense of excitement and wonder. With Peter Jackson back on top form, and blowing the cobwebs away after *An Unexpected Journey*, ... *Smaug* breathes fire back into *The Hobbit* franchise in what is a truly epic way to end the cinematic year. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Two Towers* (2002), *King Kong* (2005).

Screen Talk would like to wish all readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

## Christmas stamps: winning readers

THE GEM recently ran a competition to win a presentation pack of Christmas stamps.

The lucky winners were: Mr Peter Launder, Cowbridge; Nadine Adams, Dinas Powys; Abi Dickens, Ystrad Mynach; Mrs Norma Webb, Barry; Margaret Price, Nottage; Mr D Wilson, Llantwit Major; Mr J Leho, Barry; Mr G.R.S. Williams, Llanblethian; Lynne Whitting, Llantwit Major; Mrs A.V. Bowdidge, Laleston.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

## Dance your cares away with Steve and Lynne!

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"Or you can just come along on the night and bring your friends! Check the advertisement (left) for our new classes starting in January."

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## Cardiff man's 'Ripper' novel

JOHN Bondeson, a senior lecturer at Cardiff University, is the author of a number of critically acclaimed books and his latest, *The True History of Jack the Ripper - The Forgotten 1905 Ripper Novel* (Amberley Publishing £16.99) is a long-overdue examination of an early commentator on the crimes of Jack the Ripper by Guy Logan.

Jack the Ripper's last victim, Mary Kelly, lived in Cardiff at one time; and could there be any truth in the suggestion that after her murder, the Ripper went abroad to continue his sanguinary career?

Hundreds of books have been written about Jack the Ripper but this 224-page one, with some 37 illustrations, is surely the most unusual. BRIAN LEE

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Happy Christmas from all at  
**The GEM**

A peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year to all customers of  
**Wick Village Shop & Post Office**

Sincere thanks for all your support.



# ROYAL VISIT BRINGS EXCITEMENT AS PRINCE VISITS EWENNY PRIORY

PHOTOGRAPHS  
by **GLYN EVANS**

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THERE was great excitement in the village of Ewenny last Friday (December 13) when Prince Charles arrived on an official visit, following his visit earlier in the day to The GEM's sister paper, the Abergavenny Chronicle.

He visited Ewenny Priory Church, the most complete Norman church in south Wales, and also met a number of local people.

The Archdeacon of Margam and priest-in-charge of Ewenny, Philip Morris, greeted the Prince and showed him around the church. The Prince was also introduced to members of the Jenkins family, who have been making Ewenny Pottery for eight generations.

He met Alun Jenkins, who is also churchwarden at Ewenny, his wife Jayne and their daughter Mrs Caitlin Davies. Caitlin presented the Prince with a traditional Ewenny Pottery Wassail Bowl, one that she had designed and made.

Michael Felton, the publisher of the Bridgend-based Seren Press, presented the Prince with a copy of the book *The Harp in Wales*, by Bruce Cardwell, which features Royal harpists.

Later, the Prince talked to Dr Eurof Evans OBE, chairman of the Ewenny Priory Church Preservation Trust. Dr Evans led the Prince around the Priory section of the church, which is cared for by Cadw.

The Prince also met: Jeremy Picton-Turbervill and his family. The Priory House has been owned by the Turbervill family since the Priory was dissolved in the 16th Century; artist Alexander Beleschenko, based in Swansea, who designed the Pulpitum Screen at Ewenny Priory Church; and Jonathan Berry, senior inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology, Cadw.

Before leaving the church, the Prince listened to carols sung by children from the choir of St Brides Major Church-in-Wales Primary School, led by their headteacher, Mrs Claire Matthews.

The Prince then signed the visitors' book.

Archdeacon Philip Morris said, "This was a lovely occasion. The congregation was delighted that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales made a special visit to Ewenny Priory Church.

"Ewenny Priory is one of the hidden treasures of Wales, a remarkable example of Norman architecture and very much a living church today.

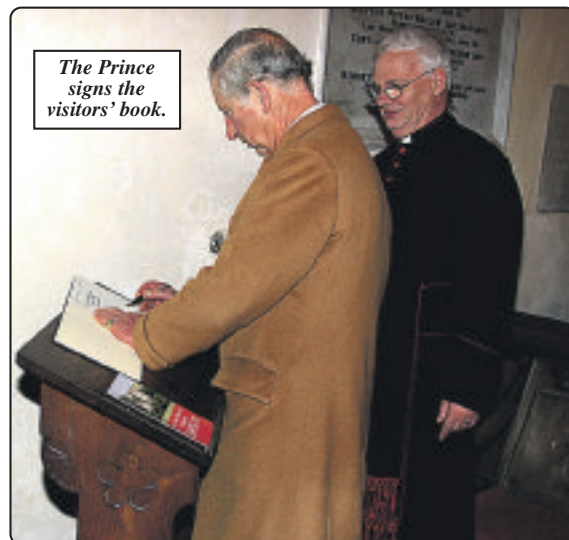
"A highlight of the visit was the carols sung by the children of St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School, many of whom live in Ewenny."



ABOVE: A gift for the Prince from Ewenny Pottery.



ABOVE: The pupils presented gifts to Prince Charles.



The Prince  
signs the  
visitors' book.



The St Bride's Major School Choir.



ABOVE: Prince Charles with  
Caitlin Davies of Ewenny Pottery.



# Seasons Greetings

## Festive trees help to brighten communities

RIGHT: Tree decorated with knitted angels at St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend.

**D**OZENS of imaginatively decorated Christmas trees have been brightening up churches in festivals throughout south Wales.

The 12ft high Angel for Africa tree, crowned by a halo and wings and made up of shawls, hats and jumpers knitted by parishioners, was one of 60 Christmas trees on display at the 12th Christmas Tree Festival at Llantrisant Church.

Throughout the year, volunteers and members of the church's Click and Chatter group knitted the baby clothes which adorn the tree and which will now be sent to Africa.

In Bridgend, a knitters' group run by St Mary's Church, Nolton, decorated their tree with knitted angels.

Rev Mike Komo, of Coity, Nolton and Brackla, said: "It's the seventh year for our popular five-day Christmas Tree Festival and this year we had 43 trees on show.

"Various groups, ranging from schools to charities, come in and decorate a tree along a particular theme - and then each year we choose a different charity to support from the proceeds. This year, we supported Bridgend Women's Aid."

Other festivals included the 13th Penarth Christmas Tree Festival at St Augustine's Church, which attracted nearly 2,000 visitors at a recent weekend.



### Llantwit First Independent Councillors



wish everyone  
a Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year

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### HAIRCARE TEAM ARE SUPER FUNDRAISERS!



ABOVE:  
Left to right:  
Beryl Vaughan,  
Val Staddon,  
Anne Wilce and  
Carol Hollings.

**T**HE 'Haircare Team', are ladies who volunteer their time to come into Southway Residential Home on alternate weeks to provide hair-dressing to the residents.

Over the years, along with former colleagues they have raised over £7,000 for Southway League of Friends, which has enabled the residents to have trips out, and regular in-house entertainment.

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Councillor  
Keith Geary,  
Town Mayor and all  
Town Councillors  
wish Llantwit Major  
residents and visitors  
a Happy Christmas  
and a Prosperous 2014



### Councillor Margaret Wilkinson

The Mayor of the Vale  
of Glamorgan Council extends  
Seasons Greetings to all  
residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year

Mae'r Cy nghorydd  
Margaret Wilkinson

Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn  
Cyfarchion yr Wyl i holl drigolion y Fro.

Nadolig Uawen a  
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda



A very  
Happy  
Christmas  
and  
New Year  
from

**JANE  
HUTT**

Labour Assembly Member  
for the Vale of Glamorgan



Jane.hutt@wales.gov.uk  
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throughout the Vale

On behalf of the residents at  
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Merry Christmas and a  
very Happy New Year.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

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the Community a  
Very Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful  
New Year!



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[alun.cairns.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alun.cairns.mp@parliament.uk)

29 High Street / 29 Y Stryd Fawr, Barry / Y Sarni, CF62 7EB  
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**Cllr. Richard Bertin  
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& Happy New Year

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01446 736227



## Homelessness at Christmas... How charity is working to give people a new life

HOMELESSNESS at Christmas is something that most of us don't care to think about.

That's where an organisation such as Emmaus comes in. The charity has three fundraising shops in the area – two in Bridgend and one in Porthcawl – and yesterday (Wednesday) it opened a fourth, this time in Maesteg.

The cash raised through these shops goes to fund the work that Emmaus does. It buys a house and makes it a home for homeless people in the area.

They earn their keep by refurbishing items, which are then sold by the charity to cover its expenses. Homeless people are called 'companions' and with time, the companions recover their strength and confidence and return to society.

As yet, there is no companion house anywhere in Wales, but the charity is hard at work renovating a property that it bought in Bridgend. It should be open later this year.

Patrons of Emmaus include Camilla, Duchess of Windsor, and Terry Waite.

The charity asked one of its companions – now in the process of rebuilding his life – to tell his story...

**I**N 2012, due to a combination of bad luck and poor choices, I ended up sleeping rough.

I found a bridge, which may



Emmaus volunteers were at this year's Bridgend Show to raise awareness of the charity's work.  
(PHOTOGRAPH BY MANDY THOMAS).

have kept me dry, but I was freezing and scared that someone could come along and give me a kicking at any time. I hardly slept and went down to eight stone.

Going into town... seeing all the lights everywhere with families having a nice time and everyone enjoying themselves was nearly too much to bear.

I thought about my own kids who were, I don't know where, with their mother and her new partner.... and I felt what was the point of living?

Another homeless guy told me that some churches allowed you to sleep there during the freezing

weather. A lady came along one evening and told us about an organisation called Emmaus, which gave you not only a home, but also work.

That appealed to me, because I wanted to get back on my feet and work – not hang around all day doing nothing.

At first, I didn't want to leave Wales – there isn't a community here yet, although there will be one in Bridgend by the end of 2014.

Anyway, they took me to visit Emmaus Bristol and I thought I would give it a try.

I have been here nine months now. It has given me the opportunity to put something back. I feel valued as a human being and people look to me to lead when I'm working in the warehouse.

Once a week, I help on the soup run and that really brings it home to me just how bad life is on the streets

I don't know how long I will stay. I am in no hurry to leave. I'll know when the time is right. The staff have been good and helped me to make contact with my kids.

This year, I could get them the presents they wanted. They are proud of me and what Emmaus has helped me achieve this year.

Terry Waite says there should be an Emmaus in every town and I think he is right.

## Volunteers bring Christmas sounds to hospital patients



### The last person standing was a Bingo winner..!

THE December meeting of Sker WI was held recently in St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when vice president Rosalie Hopper welcomed members and business was kept to a minimum, because of the entertainment that followed.

The festivities began with a fish and chip supper and gâteau to follow. Afterwards, there was a game of bingo with a difference: the last person standing after the numbers were called was the winner.

The drama group provided the entertainment, which caused plenty of amusement. Many thanks to Kay for her hard work in organising this.

After the raffle had been drawn, the evening ended with everyone singing carols.

There is a varied programme for the coming year which includes days out, the birthday meal and many interesting speakers.

The next meeting is on January 9 when the speaker is Mr Mike Boyles on "My Kind of Music". Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

ANN VIPOND

ABOVE:  
Hospital radio volunteers at the Princess of Wales, Bridgend, will be putting on a special radio show on Christmas Day. Mr and Mrs Santa Claus will also be visiting the wards on the day, and they will be making a special trip (with presents) to the children's wards!



## The Little Blue Deli



### CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DELIVERIES



Have Christmas Dinner delivered to you on Christmas Eve...

Just reheat at whatever time you like on Christmas Day.

Choose from...

Turkey with pigs in blankets and cranberry sauce.

Beef with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce.

Cranberry and Pistachio nutroast Wellington.

All of our Christmas dinners are served with roast and mashed potatoes, sprouts, carrots, cabbage and parsnips.

All priced at £7.50

Starter

Start your meal with our homemade vegetable soup  
£2.50



Christmas cold buffet boxes - ideal for Christmas night or Boxing Day

Choose from a selection of cold meats...

We have Turkey, Pork, Beef and Ham. Choose sausage rolls, ham and egg pie, corned beef pie, nutroast wellington.

Pick some cheeses to go with crackers - we have brie, stilton, cheddar, smoked applewood cheddar and others.

Dates and shelled walnuts.

We have Pate or smoked salmon, pickled onions, pickled cabbage, beetroot and coleslaw.

Perhaps finish off your buffet box with cheese and pineapple, olives or mini onion bhajis.

Price £7.50

(Certain selections may be priced higher - ask for details)

Desserts

Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce. Strawberry and Champagne Cheesecake.

Blackforest Gateaux.

Strawberry Gateaux.

Price £3.00



All meals will be cooked freshly on Christmas Eve so will be suitable to be reheated on Christmas Day or Boxing Day. Deliveries will be made on Christmas Eve between 10am and 3pm - let us know your preferred collection time when you order. Call 401101 to place your order. Last Christmas orders by 22nd December. High Street store is now open on Sundays until Christmas.

Pop into either of our stores to see our amazing Christmas decorations.

High Street theme this year is a Giant Ginger Bread House. Thompson Street's theme is a Magical Candy Cane Forest.

3 THOMPSON STREET, BARRY CF63 4JL. 86 HIGH STREET, BARRY CF62 4DX.

01446 721874/401101. Check out our website for full menu: [www.mybluedeli.com](http://www.mybluedeli.com)



'Like' Little Blue Deli on Facebook



When a GEM reader wrote last week complaining at the widespread use of Welsh on bilingual signs, the letter produced a huge response that almost overflowed our postbag! *Here is what other readers had to say...*

## How can Welsh be 'foreign language' in our own country?

**I** FOUND Eileen Bayley's letter in last week's GEM quite depressing. I could not quite understand the correlation between her upbringing in the "east of the principality where she never heard Welsh spoken," and bilingual signs at Llandough Hospital?

I grew up in the Ely area of Cardiff, and I heard Welsh spoken all the time; I dare say I even heard it spoken in the High Street of Cowbridge, and certainly in Llantwit Major, where I live now.

In fact, St Illtud's has a Welsh Eucharist where the church is full with people from the Vale.

If anyone should be incensed it should be Welsh speakers – not just them but all Welsh people – and those who have adopted Wales as their home who feel a certain justice regarding our native language.

They should be incensed to be described as speaking a 'foreign' lan-

guage in their own country.

I would like the writer to consider a fellow Welsh citizen who speaks Welsh as a first language, and grew up in a Welsh-speaking community (rather like Richard Burton), who comes to the capital city of their country, is a tax payer, and yet sees no Welsh signs. Is that fair and just?

Let me just add that in the 20 years that I was living in the United States of America, on at least two occasions people in the street addressed me in Welsh; an older gentleman in Denver, and a young man at Wichita airport, when I was wearing Welsh badges. Surely that demonstrates the language's vitality.

Just substitute colour for language, it's not very nice, but perhaps Mrs Bayley does need to move to England – though I would not recommend a large city – she might find that English is not spoken there!

**Michael Cridland, St Athan.**

## 'We don't speak it here'

**A** whole heartedly agree with Eileen Bayley on the Welsh signage in this area, because basically we don't speak it here.

Yes, this is Wales and Welsh is spoken in parts, but things have become bilingual to the point of ridiculousness.

I was born and brought up in Barry, where we received a totally inadequate education in Welsh, which

gave us no grounding or the inclination to learn Welsh, particularly when you'd have to search far and wide here to get anyone you could converse with in Welsh.

Signs in public places are more of a distraction than useful, particularly road signs; who has time to be translating when they're driving?

Another thing I find irritating is that in Tesco, Welsh is the dominant language, our local store features a massive 'CROESO' on the wall,

so where is the 'Welcome' for the benefit of the English-speaking majority?

Even the aisles in supermarkets have Welsh as the dominant language.

It's quite laughable; yet there can't be any Welsh speakers in Wales who cannot speak English.

Let the Welsh speakers speak Welsh and leave the rest of us in peace.  
**Helen Hooper, Rhooose.**

## Welsh language was here first!

**I** DO NOT agree with Ms Bayley that it is 'lunacy' to have bilingual signs; obviously she has no interest in language and is blinkered in her understanding of heritage and culture that defines a nation.

Welsh is a much older language than English and was spoken in these islands long before English.

Having two languages, makes learning a third easier. We have been going to a village in inland Spain for over 20 years. No-one under-

stood English, in the village so we made an effort to learn sufficient Spanish to communicate with them and shop etc.

Speaking Welsh has made learning Spanish easier. Unfortunately, we still see in Spain many English-speaking people with very little respect for the language and culture of that country.

Monoglots do not appreciate the charm and challenge of trying to master a second or third language.

**Mrs Jackie Lewis, Rhooose.**

## Cluttering up signs

**I** AM in total agreement with Eileen Bayley ('Too many Welsh signs'). They are a complete waste of money, cluttering the direction signs at Llandough Hospital.

It would be interesting to know how much it cost for the extra lettering. However, I am in favour of Welsh road signs, and keeping the Welsh language alive.

**L. Jeffery, Dinas Powys.**

## HOW CAN COST BE JUSTIFIED?

**L**IKE Eileen Bayley ('Too many Welsh signs,' GEM letters), I attended Llandough Hospital recently and thought the same from the moment I got on the main road.

The cost of having nearly every sign in Welsh and English must be astronomical. How can this be justified?

And don't even get

me started about the letters in both languages – councils and health authorities, to name but two of the offenders, could cut their costs dramatically by phasing out this ridiculous practice.

If there really are people who think these expenses are justified, let them pay extra to have double the mail at their addresses, and I'll settle for the official UK language, English.

**Jo Cody, Llantwit Major.**

## It's not too late to learn Welsh!

**I** FELT I should write a reply to the GEM letter – 'Too many Welsh signs' dated

December 12. The only 'lunacy' here is for someone who lives in Wales, who entered a Welsh hospital in a Welsh town, to complain of signs being in Welsh!

In 1993, the Welsh Language Act was brought in to law which states that English and Welsh are to be treated equally – this is why you see these signs.

The lady in question states that the main language of the United Kingdom is primarily English, which is probably correct, at the moment – but it doesn't make it right.

Welsh is a growing language. Maybe the writer has left it too late to cross over the bridge to England, but it's not too late for her to learn the Welsh language!

**Miss D Jones, Barry**

## 'Welsh language only on request'

**A**T last, a Welsh person stating that bilingual signs are lunacy; they are also dangerous. How many

Europeans with a limited knowledge of English drive on Welsh roads daily and have to decipher complicated road signs in a split second on the motorways?

It has been reported in the press that some businesses have gone to the wall due to the cost of printing associated with bilingual instructions and leaflets.

How frustrating it is to have to listen to Welsh train information on Cardiff Central Station. By the time it gets around to English you have missed your train.

Let's apply common sense and make Welsh available if requested.  
**Graham Wilson, Boverton.**

## 'MONEY WASTED ON WELSH'

**I** HAVE no problem with Welsh people speaking Welsh. I am not Welsh born, but it is my adopted country and I love living here.

I completely agree with Eileen Bayley's letter of December 12.

I met this madness when I applied for work at RAF St Athan in the 4 S of TT technical school in 2007.

I was sent two application forms, one in English and one in Welsh. During my interview, I asked if any aircraft maintenance manuals were in Welsh and if any teaching was carried out in Welsh; the person I spoke to said no.

The tests that students had to pass to further their career were also all in English. It just goes to show how much time and money is wasted on this scheme.

## 'We have a duty to protect what is unique to Wales'

**I**N reply to Eileen Bayley's letter headed 'Too many Welsh signs', (The GEM, last week) I recently crossed the bridge back to Wales after 40 years in English exile.

I wanted to live once more in a Welsh environment. There are many aspects to what makes Wales Welsh: the landscape, the weather, the food, the buildings but the most important of all is the language.

I gain huge pleasure from bilingual signage and would like to congratulate Llandough Hospital on the excellent job they have made. It is easy to declare oneself 'incensed' as does Eileen Bayley and

decry things that displease you as "lunatic".

I could be equally incensed at her "lunatic" attack on our culture and heritage. Instead I would ask her to consider how drab the world would become if we continued our slide into ubiquitous American-English standardisation.

Like her, I was brought up in an English-only home. I spent the largest part of my working life in England. It was my time across the bridge that made me realise how special our language is and how easy to destroy for the sake of convenience.

Over the century, we destroyed too much of our historical and natural environment in the name of efficiency or progress. I believe we all have a duty to pro-

tect and conserve that which is valuable and unique to Wales.

I note that Eileen Bayley threatens to move to England. This is sad, but maybe a period the wrong side of the bridge would help her realise the enormous value of that which she now deems 'not necessary'. Alternatively, I can suggest some excellent classes for Welsh learners that might enable her to enjoy herself, rather than feel aggrieved when offered Welsh language signage.  
**Gareth Thomas, St Hilary.**

## Back to Welsh NOT?

**I** READ with interest and some dismay, Eileen Bayley's letter in The GEM re bilingual signage in Wales.

As she herself admits, the Welsh signage precedes the English text, so if she reads only the bottom of the sign she should have no problem.

She does not say how long she has lived in Wales, but if these bilingual signs cause her so much annoyance, why not learn to speak Welsh?

Or does she suggest a return to the dark days of the 'Welsh NOT' in our Welsh schools?

*Techedy da pob Cymro!*  
**Rhodri Wyn Williams, Llantwit Major.**

## Why are Welsh signs 'lunacy'?

**I**N response to Eileen Bayley's letter (The GEM, December 12) on Welsh language signs, I cannot believe how someone can be so offended by their own culture.

I really do wonder how the name of the place you live sits with you; do you dislike that, too, because it's pretty much as Welsh as it gets!

Do you not think that if you travelled to somewhere like, let's say

Greece, that the signage there wouldn't be primarily in Greek?

How on earth can you be incensed by Welsh signs in Wales and, furthermore, refer to it as "lunacy"?

You should be thankful that our signs are not primarily in Arabic or Polish! If you do decide to take the trip out of Wales, I for one will stand on the bridge and say *Wylf Fawr*.

**Catherine Lane, Barry.**

## 'Lunacy or dogma?'

**W**ITH reference to your invitation to express a view on bilingual signposting; yes, it is bordering on lunacy.

Not only is money wasted in duplicating every signpost, it is also wasted on duplicating every official letter, hundreds of thousands of which are regularly sent out.

Here in south-east Wales, where everyone speaks English and few

do Welsh, it is a real pain to wade through the duplication on road signs, and also adds an element to traffic danger since attention is diverted to sorting out the English from the Welsh.

This 'lunacy' is nothing other than dogma. Welsh language can and should definitely be preserved as well as encouraged; but there are far better ways of doing it than thrusting it down the throats of those who do not want it.

**Marc Delaney, Barry.**

## 'Confusing to visitors'

**I** TOTALLY agree with Eileen Bayley on the subject of bilingual signs; the directional signs on the approach to Cardiff airport are hard to read and understand when travelling by car.

To a visitor, the bilingual signs will be confusing and, in my opinion, an

overkill. To understand the information, they would have to stop, read the signs carefully and subtract the Welsh text.

What a waste of time and money that could be better spent. No matter how many objections there are on bilingual signs, nothing will change.

**Denis Barker, Llantwit Major.**

**'Cannot pronounce the street names'**

**I** TOTALLY agree with Eileen Bayley's criticism of too many Welsh signs.

The lady is quite right to say Welsh signage on such a scale is not necessary and out of hand, OTT (Over The Top).

It is right to say bilingual madness has taken over. I am also incensed by this lunacy. I also find the naming of estates, roads, streets with unpronounceable names totally unnecessary, confusing and frustrating. Enough is enough of this bilingual nonsense.  
**Gordon Bell, Penarth.**



# Royal visit for Britain's largest family-owned weekly newspaper group

**THE Prince of Wales visited Britain's largest privately-owned local weekly newspaper group last week (December 13) to celebrate the 125th anniversary of one of its publications, The Brecon & Radnor Express.**

During his visit to Tindle Newspapers, the Prince met the management and editors of The Abergavenny Chronicle, The Cambrian News, The Tenby Observer, The Monmouthshire Beacon and The Glamorgan GEM.

He also met and talked with the entire staff of the Brecon & Radnor Express and of the Abergavenny Chronicle.

He was introduced by Sir Ray to the other members of the Board of Tindle Newspapers Ltd., Wendy Craig, Brian Doel, and Sue Yates.

Owned by Sir Ray Tindle, Tindle Newspapers has been

providing vital community news to rural areas for decades, with its oldest newspaper being published for over 200 years.

The newspaper group is also a generous supporter of The Prince's Countryside Fund and has given £100,000 to help support people who care for the countryside.

The newspaper group was started by Sir Ray Tindle with £300 of demob money at the close of World War II.

When he met the Prince, he presented him with a framed front page of a special edition of the Brecon & Radnor Express, featuring the Prince's Countryside Fund.

The newspaper group has also committed to raising awareness about The Prince's Countryside Fund and will carry the PCF logo on the masthead of all its newspapers during 2014.

The Prince's Countryside Fund was set up in July 2010 by Business in the Community and the



Prince, who has a long-held commitment to supporting Britain's hard pressed rural areas.

The fund has given £3 million in grants in three years to rural communities, directly benefiting more than 52,000 people. The PCF also operates an emergency fund for times of need.

During his visit, Prince Charles visited the Abergavenny offices of Tindle Newspapers.

He spoke to editors about their work in supporting rural communities and he unveiled two plaques recognising the event.

He also greeted beneficiaries from two Welsh projects that have



**ABOVE:** During a hectic schedule on Friday of last week, Prince Charles visited Tindle Newspapers before moving on, just hours later, to Ewenny.

received grants from The Prince's Countryside Fund – Pembrokeshire Beekeepers Association and farmers supported by RABI, who benefited from the emergency fund earlier this year.

Victoria Elms, the manager of the Prince's Countryside Fund, said,

"Tindle's newspapers are a great source of local knowledge and a vital information source in rural areas.

"We're delighted to receive such a generous donation, which will go towards projects that are working to protect, improve and sustain rural life," she added.

## New Year swim for the Teenage Cancer Trust

**THE New Year's Day swim at Whitmore Bay will raise money for The Teenage Cancer Trust.**

Organiser Rob Salter told The GEM: "The event, a 30 year old local tradition, has grown massively in recent years, making local and national headlines.

"The 2013 event attracted over 200 swimmers and thousands of spectators.

"NYD 2014 looks set to be even bigger and better. We meet under the Western Shelter and the swim is at 12 noon. People are advised to arrive early as it is likely to be busy.

"Over the years the swim has become a great social event and an annual reunion for many.

"Big towels, dressing gowns and hot water bottles are the order of the day!"

Rob added that there would also be more traffic controls in place following this year's long tailbacks on the causeway road and round the Pleasure Park.

If you want to help the Teenage Cancer Trust, go to [www.teenagecancertrust.org](http://www.teenagecancertrust.org) which will advise you how to go about setting up your own sponsorship page.

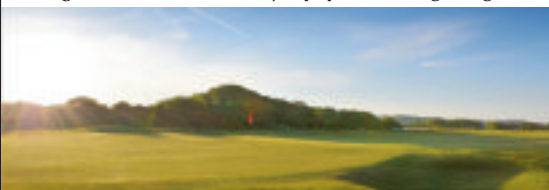
## WINTER MEMBERSHIP OFFER

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Limited Availability Email: [secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk)

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# Porthcawl school is full of the Christmas spirit!



**THE Christmas spirit has been alive and well during the last few weeks of term at St Clare's School in Porthcawl.**

Over in the prep school, parents have been able to enjoy a selection of fantastic Christmas concerts from pupils in the infants, juniors and nursery.

First up were the infants who dressed up in glittery costumes as penguins, polar bears and icicles in their concert, which was full of non singing and dancing.

The juniors then showed off their impressive collection of Christmas jumpers and terrible jokes in their show 'The 359th Day of The Year'.

Each year group had prepared a small sketch on different Christmas traditions, and the audience enjoyed a mix of new and old Christmas songs.

Last but not least, nursery children took to the stage to perform in their Nativity concert. Parents and grandparents watched proudly as their little angels, shepherds and stars sang along to all of our favourite Christmas carols.

The Friends of St Clare's held their annual Christmas fayre on December 6.

As always, the event was very popular and a huge success. As well as a whole host of festive stalls and activities, with plenty of prizes to be won, Father Christmas came along to meet the children in his grotto!

Senior school pupils showed off their talents in the annual Christmas concert on December 11. Talented singers and instrumentalists took to the stage to perform a mix of festive and popular songs.

The house band accompanied singing groups from each year of the senior school, and there was a special performance from regular favourite, 'The Bats'.

Pupils from the nursery had an extra special treat when they visited Santa in his grotto at Pyle Garden Centre.

The children took their own individual letters and drawings to Father Christmas, who promised to deliver as many presents as he could to them each if they were all good boys and girls.

Debbie and the dining hall team treated everyone to a fantastic home cooked Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 12. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of roast turkey or vegetable roulade with all the trimmings.

On the last day of term, prep school parents came along to see the prep school choir perform their musical version of the Nativity.

Mrs Boughton's choir have been practicing during lunch times to perfect the performance, which was a lovely way to end the term and start the Christmas holidays!

*Staff and pupils of St. Clare's school would like to wish readers of The GEM a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.* JH



## £100,000 FESTIVE PRESENT FOR THE DOGS TRUST

*The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (01656 725219)*

**DOGS TRUST Bridgend is celebrating after the charity received an early Christmas present from players of People's Postcode Lottery.**

The charity lottery has pledged £100,000 from its players to help the UK's largest dog welfare charity to care for its 16,000 four-legged residents across its network of 18 rehoming centres in the UK and one in Ireland.

It is the first time the charity has received money from the players of a major lottery.

Dogs Trust's iconic slogan 'A Dog is for Life, Not Just for Christmas' was created 35 years ago this December but is just as relevant today as the charity braces itself for an influx of unwanted dogs over the Christmas season.

"The support from players of People's Postcode Lottery will help care for as many of these dogs as possible as they await loving new homes. "It will also help Dogs Trust invest in programmes in Bridgend to promote responsible ownership and reduce the number of unwanted dogs by promoting neutering, microchipping and education programmes targeted at the dog owners of tomorrow."

Clarissa Baldwin, Dogs Trust CEO, said: "We are delighted to receive the support from players of



People's Postcode Lottery. We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters so this funding will make a huge difference to dog welfare in this country.

"Sadly, the festive season is still a very busy time of year for us with hundreds of these unwanted 'presents' ending up in our care. This funding will go a long way to help ensure they are as comfortable as possible as they await loving homes."

## Nominate worthy citizen for borough mayor's award...

**RESIDENTS are being asked to nominate worthy fellow citizens for an achievement award.**

Nominations for the county borough Mayor's Citizenship Awards are now open, and residents can suggest people they think should be honoured for acts of bravery, charity fundraising, voluntary work, or generally putting their community on the map during the last year.

Organised by BCBC, the awards are open those who live in the county borough, as well as local groups and businesses.

Mayor of the county borough, Coun Clive James said: "If you know someone who is an outstanding citizen, why not give them an extra present this Christmas by nominating them for an

award? I'm really looking forward to hearing about the amazing things that local people do, and I would invite as many people as possible to please send in their nominations."

Last year's winners included two Bryntirion schoolboys who rescued an injured and elderly gentleman, a group of Porthcawl coastguards who won an award for their bravery and contribution to the community, and a number of deserving volunteers.

Visit the media centre at [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk) to download a nomination form and find out more about the awards. The deadline for nominations is January 24. Award winners will be honoured at an event hosted by the Mayor at the Civic Offices in Bridgend in March.

## Tondu RFC players are switched-on

**PLAYERS from Tondu RFC didn't have to 'try' too hard to spread some Christmas cheer, when they recently visited the Parc Tyn Y Coed development in Sarn.**

The four players and their coaches were special guests at the development and had the task of switching on the Christmas lights. Barratt South Wales was a sponsor of the club for the past year and will again be supporting the club throughout 2014.

Robert Dyke from Tondu RFC said that support of companies such as Barratt Homes was vital for clubs to prosper.

Richard Lawson, sales director of Barratt Homes, said, "We are committed to working with communities in which we are building and by forging closer relationships with local rugby clubs we hope to play a small part in helping grass roots sport in South Wales."



**ABOVE: Sales negotiator Janet Jenkins with Tondu players Charlie Jones, Shane Howell Bowen, James Hurst, Matthew Rowe, Rob Dyke, Dewi Ward.**

## Carols and awards bring year to a close

**THE festive season got underway for Maendy Young Farmers Club at their annual carol service at Pendoylan church.**

Rev Edwin Counsel provided some special effects, including strobe lighting, a smoke machine and music.

Some members gave traditional Biblical readings, while others carried figures to the crib as part of the Nativity story.

Focus turned to the second public speaking competition of the year, held at the Pencoed campus of Bridgend College on December 8. The day saw all age groups take part in various competitions.

The results were as follows: junior reading (second), junior public speaking (first), intermediate brainstrust (fourth) and senior member of the year (fifth and 10th).

Members Sophie Thomas, Louisa Knowles, Evan Thomas and Mathew Davies were each selected for the county team to represent Glamorgan at the Wales finals in March next year.

On Tuesday, over 40 members and supporters gathered together to enjoy a tasty feast at The Red Lion, Pendoylan to mark the Christmas period and reflect on what has been a very successful 2013 with more to come in 2014.

On December 28, the Glamorgan County Federation are holding their Christmas party at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 available on the door. Contact Laura Miles 07966 968202, or [laura\\_miles38@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laura_miles38@hotmail.co.uk).

Finally, Maendy Young Farmers Club would like to extend warm wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

*Did you know you can read your GEM online?*  
**[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)**



# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



## Sport Foundation

**HALO Leisure is calling for applications to its Sport Foundation scheme.**

The Foundation (run in conjunction with the national GLL Sport Foundation and supported by Sport Wales) offers thousands of pounds worth of funding and free training opportunities to local people (of all ages).

A not for profit organisation and a registered charity Halo's aim is to provide the local community with active leisure facilities, and will offer support through the Sport Foundation for another year.

The Foundation is currently supporting 66 local sports people (able bodied and disabled) across a variety of sports.

They use Halo gyms, group exercise classes, pools, racquet sports courts and indoor and outdoor sports pitches to keep fit and prepare for competitive events.

Rising local sporting stars have until February 20 to apply for Sport Foundation support.

Contact  
www.haloleisure.org.uk/  
portfoundation.

## Christmas song

**HOREB Baptist Chapel, Dinam Close, Nantymoel, has a special evening of Christmas Song, with candle light service on Sunday, December 22 at 4.30 pm.**

Its regular services are as follows: Sunday 11am; Sunday school 5pm; 6pm Prayer meeting, Thursday at 7pm.

## Wildlife walk

**MEMBERS of the Welsh Wildlife Trust are inviting the public to join them on December 28 for a walk in Parc Slip nature reserve, Tondur meeting in the visitor centre at 11am.**

An amazing amount of wildlife can be seen on the reserve at this time of the year.

The visitor centre and coffee shop will be closed from end of business on December 22 until January 7 except for the above event.

The Nature Reserve will be open for wildlife watching and walking as usual.

## Youth choir

**BRIDGEND youth choir, which consists of secondary school singers from Archbishop McGrath, Brynteg, Coleg Cymunedol and Porthcawl, appeared in a special Christmas performance alongside the BBC National Chorus of Wales, at St David's Hall, Cardiff on December 17 and was part of BBC's 'Christmas Celebrations' concert.**

The evening's performance was conducted by popular Welsh conductor Grant Llewellyn, no stranger to the young singers having previously conducted them in a showcase of music composed by Karl Jenkins at St David's Hall.

## Croatia tour

**OGMORE Valley male voice choir recently took part in a cultural tour of Croatia, where it performed with Croatian and Latvian choirs. It also took part in a four hour workshop on Croatian traditional multipart singing in Kutina university, with ethnomusicologist Josko Caleta.**

Three choirs were coached in Klapa



Year-12 Students Alys Young, Holly Freeman, Alex Pearce, Charlotte Jones, Alicia Holman and Holly Tyler.

singing by Josko Caleta, with Peter Gapper excelling as the lead voice for Ogmores choir. The four hours flew past and according to many choir members, this was the highlight of the tour.

The choir has been very busy over the last week and on Friday December 13 they led the carol singing in The Fox, Blackmill.

On Saturday, the choir entertained (under musical director Ira Paskin and accompanist Gareth Waite) residents of Swn Y Môr home in Gilfach Goch; and its secretary John Jones recited two comical poems.

On December 17 it entertained the residents at Bron Llwyn home, located in Gelli, Rhonda in the afternoon, and in the evening sang to shoppers in Tesco's, Bridgend town centre.

On December 18, along with Ogmores Valley silver band and musicians from Ogmores Vale primary school, it performed in a free carol concert, entertaining the residents of Ogmores

Vale at its own Canolfan Bethlehem hall. Today (December 19) it will again be at Tesco's, Bridgend town centre entertaining the public from 5pm.

## Bridgend Foodbank

**AS I reported in this column last week, events are being organised to provide much-needed funds to support this worthy charity.**

On Christmas Eve Pencoed Silver Band will be at the carol service at 6.30pm, on December 24 in Tabernacle chapel, Pontycymer. All money raised will be donated to the charity.

On January 17, in Aberkenfig Bible Church at 7.15pm, there will be a concert with music provided by two mixed voice choirs, Brackla Community Chorus and Noteworthy from Maesteg.

Any musicians wishing to take part should telephone 01656 725399.

## Well done!

**TONDU primary pupils who represented**

the school in the recent primary school's cross country competition for children in years 3 to 6, at Cynffig comprehensive school, were Jerry Chan, Tiffany Chen, Seren Dare, Jonny Evans, Benji Lock, Kieran O'Connor, Tyler Richards and Iestyn Williamson. Well done to them all!

## Art show

**TWENTY-SIX year-12 art students from Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend were recently involved in a Community Arts Festival, 'Made in Roath' now in its fifth year.**

Pupils mounted an exhibition of etchings and linocut prints which were on sale in the Open House exhibition at the home of art teacher Mrs S Pearson.

They also ran print-making workshops for visiting members of the public and displayed a selection of works produced by Brynteg art teachers.

This was a very well attended and ambitious start to the A Level art course and hopefully the start of an annual public event for Brynteg art department pupils.

Mrs Pearson, head of art at Brynteg School said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to have their first exhibition experience in a vibrant contemporary art event and the workshops were enormously successful with all the visitors to the exhibition."

## Church services

**MEMBERS of Aberkenfig and District United Churches invite everyone to join them on Saturday December 21 at 10am on a 'Walk of Witness' from Bethlehem Chapel, Brynnymyn to Nazareth chapel, Bryncethin.**

On January 23 at 7.30pm, there will be a service of Christian unity at Nazareth chapel, Bryncethin.

**EVERYONE is invited to St Bride's church, Llansantffraid carol service on December 22 at 6pm, and to partake of mince pies and mulled wine after the service.**

Midnight mass is on December 24 at 11.30pm. **ON December 24, at 4pm, there will be a**



Brynteg art teachers Mrs Sara Topham, Mrs Shirley Pearson and Mrs Ruby Brannigan.



Work on display.

**Christingle service at St David's church, Betws with children from Betws Primary School and the 'messy church' taking part. On Christmas Day at 10am, there will be a Eucharist service. THERE is a Christmas Eucharist service at St John's church, Aberkenfig on December 25 at 9am.**

St David's church, Wyndham: Christmas Eve, 5pm, there will be children's crib service and midnight mass at 11pm; Christmas Day at 10.30am, a Holy Eucharist service. St Tyfodwys church, Glynogwr: Christmas Day at 9am, Holy Eucharist and carol service.

## Wonderful concert

**I RECENTLY attended the Brackla Community Chorus carol concert at Bethyl Newydd Chapel, Heol Y Cwyr organised by Coychurch Higher Community Council.**

The chapel was full and the concert started with everyone singing 'The First Nowell', followed by a young lady, Miss Sioned Hiscocks, reading the first lesson in Welsh, and everyone then sang the lovely carol 'Silent Night'.

We were treated to some lovely renditions by Brackla Community Chorus, under musical director Gillian Ridout, with accompanist Gareth Waite-Tua Bethlehem Dref, 'Were You There on That Christmas Night' and 'Jingle Bell Rock'.

The second lesson was read by a young lady from Pencoed Comprehensive School Bethan Ames, with everyone then singing

'Away in a Manger'.

We were then treated to some wonderful singing by another young lady from Pencoed Comprehensive School, Ellie Barham, who sang a selection of her own music.

Rev Ian Hodges amused the congregation with a series of questions and answers, followed by everyone singing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'.

The third lesson was read by another young lady from Pencoed Comprehensive School, Caitlin Jenkins; then back on stage came the Brackla Community Chorus with 'A Christmas Gloria', 'The Angel Gabriel' and 'Joy to the World'. The congregation then sang 'Once in Royal David's City'.

The soloist Ellie Barham returned to the stage to sing 'O Holy Night' and the congregation then sang 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night'. The fourth lesson was read by Alex Owen, Chair of the community council and the carol concert was ended with everyone singing 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.

**THERE will be a community Christmas sing-a-long at the Llangynwyd Community Centre on Friday December 20 at 7pm, with festive music and readings, mince pies and mulled wine. Entrance is free and there is the obligatory raffle.**

A large car park is located at the rear of the centre.

• *I would like to wish the readers of this column a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

# BAVO volunteer group looks back on challenging year



Mari Major (BAVO trustee); Mark Davies (BAVO trustee - chair); Fiona Liddell (WCVA); Heidi Bennett, chief executive, BAVO; Dr Victoria Winckler (Bevan Foundation); Janice Gregory AM; Alison Phillips (Older People Wales); Darren Mephram - chief executive officer, Bridgend County Borough Council; Clive Owen (BAVO trustee); Steve Curry (BAVO trustee); Heulwen Webb (BAVO trustee).

## THE Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO), recently held its annual general meeting at Bethlehem Church Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr.

The umbrella organisation, set up to develop and promote voluntary and community action throughout the county borough, accepted that it had been a tough year for the sector but said it had been innovative in its approach to try to support members.

In the last year, BAVO were one of the county voluntary councils in south Wales to be awarded just under £1million from the Big Lottery Fund to lead the 'Community Voice'

programme, which will enable vulnerable groups to have a network of support and a voice in service design and delivery that meets their needs.

A number of contracts (over £200,000) and a further £2 million was raised by organisations within Bridgend county borough with the support of BAVO. The organisation also achieved the 'Investing in Volunteers' quality standard, in recognition of the excellent work they do with volunteers.

In the presence of Janice Gregory AM, BAVO members and trustees, guest speakers included Alison Phillips (Deputy Older People's Commissioner for Older People in Wales), Dr Victoria Winckler (chief executive officer from the Bevan

Foundation) and Darren Mephram (chief executive officer of Bridgend County Borough Council), who all explained how cuts in services and funding have and will affect people, communities and local services.

Heidi Bennett, BAVO's chief executive officer said: "Welfare reform, poverty, emotional wellbeing and an ageing, more isolated population is having a huge effect at a time of diminishing resources."

"This year has been our hardest yet and the next two years will be very challenging for the voluntary sector and for our communities."

"Our members have been telling us they are becoming increasingly busy and strained

in dealing with the demands placed on their services as a result of hugely increasing need which has a profound impact on people and communities."

"We hear of a particular increase in demand for the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Foodbank and Credit Unions. Poverty is a real issue and the voluntary sector is picking up the challenge in trying to tackle it and BAVO is proud of what organisations are still managing to achieve with such little resource!"

A copy of all of BAVO's past year's achievements is available at [www.bavo.org.uk](http://www.bavo.org.uk). For more information, telephone 01656 810400.



## The Stagecoach students' show raises the roof



Stagecoach students at the Grand Theatre, Swansea.

**TALENTED** students from Stagecoach schools in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan dazzled at the Grand Theatre in Swansea recently.

Together with young performers from 15 other Stagecoach schools across Wales, they entertained a packed audience with a lively programme of song, dance and drama from the world of musical theatre.

The students from Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge performed a wonderful medley from the Broadway hit musical *Newsies*, and an exceptional piece from the Billy Joel musical *Movin' Out*.

Under the training of Stagecoach principals Helene and Rob Reynolds, choreographer Jaye Lawrence and vocal coach Dave Winterbottom, the young performers 'raised the roof' as the crowd erupted in applause follow-

ing their professional-standard performances.

The night closed with the 50-strong Stagecoach National Choir of Wales, who also recently performed at Disneyland Paris.

A highlight of the night was a specially devised piece from 'Interact' performers. 'Interact' provide drama, dance, movement and music workshops to disadvantaged young people run by the Stagecoach Charitable Trust.

Awards winning principals Rob and Helene Reynolds who each week welcome over 320 students to Stagecoach, said: "It was a very special event to bring together all the Stagecoach schools in Wales. We are so proud of every student who performed with such professionalism, skill, confidence and enthusiasm. It really was a spectacular evening celebrating 25 wonderful years of Stagecoach Theatre Arts".

## Boston bound... all the way from Barry!

**ACTOR** Steffan Rhodri (Dave in the smash hit series *Gavin and Stacey*) has signed up for the Velindre East Coast Bike Challenge.

The 515km route is a gruelling five day stretch from Boston to New York next September.

Steffan is joining 30 other riders who have already signed up for the ride, including Sian Lloyd, Matthew J Watkins and Jamie Baulch.

"Everyone knows someone affected by cancer, and supported by the fabulous staff at Velindre, so it was a no-brainer for me," he said.

To support Steffan go to: [www.justgiving.com/Barry2Boston](http://www.justgiving.com/Barry2Boston).

Further details at [www.velindrefundraising.com](http://www.velindrefundraising.com), or ring 029 2031 6211.

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE** following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D805.

● £2,000: 430109.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 795860, 559420, 166981, 724414, 368715, 546062, 528948, 243400, 247664, 483142, 185171, 334098, 238844, 556135, 874124, 948424, 651247, 422323, 958868, 777140.

● £5: 546194, 702153, 282209, 892303, 758095, 404250, 725233, 243302, 468906, 584819, 135320, 776980, 525226, 308287, 435279, 955643, 632246, 740419, 272552, 443472, 380687, 675368, 609408, 217574, 726984, 412178, 903935, 464557, 452516, 361584, 562955, 175459, 234593, 113404, 965086, 905557, 758781, 449598, 711868, 641139, 875422, 427209, 135751, 475492, 411325, 147870, 557704, 605615, 395832, 389607, 487027, 291396, 850672, 107671, 299012, 843869, 469497, 456625.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.



Dave is swapping his coach for a bike!

## 'Wonderful' tree festival celebrated

**WHAT** a wonderful tree festival enjoyed by all at St Mary's Church, where nine school choirs, Barry Choral Society, Cadoxton School on the hand drums and Superstars, a group of very talented young people, joined together.

The standard of entry for the trees was so high that we had to have three different categories.

The schools category was won by Colcot Primary School with their tree 'Christmas Past and Present' and Jenner Park Primary School had a highly commended with their Victorian tree (by The Children of the Revolution).

The adult section went to Sully U3A, 'Beachcombers Christmas', a tree made

out of driftwood with hand knitted ornaments made by their group of knitters. Finally, the young people's section was won by Cubs from 11th Barry Sea Scouts; 'The Bird Tree' had a total of 43 birds made by the Cubs in an array of colour.

On behalf of Cadoxton Juxta-Barry, I would like to thank everyone for their entries and all those who took part of helped in any way. A final thank you to the Vale Mayor and her consort, the Town Mayor, and Jane Hutt, for their help with the judging of the trees and presenting the certificates to the winners.

Hope to see you all again next year and may we wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

SUSAN BORGES, People's warden at St Mary's Church

## School grading: 'RETHINK' IS URGED

**THE** Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has called for a "wholesale review of the school grading and banding system in Wales".

Last week the Welsh Government published the new bandings of schools across Wales and Mr Cairns said that the swings from high to low bands and vice versa suggested that the measures "weren't fair" and a rethink was needed.

He pointed out that Ysgol y Fro in Barry over the last two years has swung from being in the top band to the bottom and back to the top.

"This makes little sense and that logic would dictate that the school didn't perform 'poorly' all of a sudden and then bounce back," he said.

Ysgol y Fro and Stanwell Schools were classed in band 1, C o w b r i d g e

Comprehensive in band 2, with Bryn Hafren and St Richard Gwyn in band 3. Llantwit Major and St Cyres were placed in band 4 and Barry Comprehensive in band 5.

Mr Cairns said that he knew all the schools in his constituency well and according to GCSE and A Level results, they perform well. He said it makes little sense to see swings of performance from the top to the bottom.

"Parents need to look beyond the bandings and consider what is important to them. We are blessed in Barry and the Vale to have good schools, but obviously, we need to focus our attention where further improvement is needed," he added.

He was supported by regional Tory AM Andrew RT Davies, who also expressed "concerns" over the banding system.

## Local residents are warned: 'DO NOT FALL FOR CHRISTMAS SCAMS!'

**B R I D G E N D** Trading Standards officers are warning local residents to "watch out for shopping and contract scams" during the busy Christmas period.

A spokesperson said: "The Trading Standards service is expecting that rogue traders will prey on unsuspecting shoppers as they search for their loved ones' perfect gifts, and is urging residents to keep an eye out for the eight cons of Christmas, which should all be ignored:

1. Dodgy websites: Always check the 'contact us' section of a website, and if there is no UK postal address to be found, don't buy from that website.

2. Online free trials: Scammers' 'pop-ups' offer free trials on items like weight loss supplements while hiding contracts amongst the fine print.

3. Loan scams: Devious credit businesses are cashing in on people's financial desperation.

4. Doorstep crime: Bad weather is used by rogue traders to convince some residents that they need unnecessary and often substandard home improvements at extortionate prices.

5. Computer scams:

Beware of a bogus call from a computer company warning of a serious viral attack, and asking for personal and financial information.

6. Grant notices: Consumers are warned of an email purporting to be from the Commonwealth Secretariat and HM Treasury telling them that they qualify for a £1,000 grant to be paid directly into their bank accounts. It should be ignored.

7. Security alarms: The National Scams Hub is alerting consumers about a possible security alarm scam where they receive a cold call from a company offering to install security systems. The security system may be free or available at a nominal cost, but the on-going maintenance costs are high and there is a cancellation fee.

8. Vishing (Voice phishing): Scammers call victims pretending to be a bank, building society or similar official and attempt to get personal information. A genuine bank or building society will never ask for details over the phone."

*If you feel pressured into handing over your money or feel uneasy about any transaction, walk away and report your experience to the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 08454 04 05 06.*

## Rotarians hand a cheque to charity



**THE** Rotary Club of Maesteg recently presented a cheque for £200 to Prostate Cymru, a charity which totally relies on donations to continue their study into prostate cancer.

Andy Thomas, a consultant urologist at the Princess of Wales hospital in Bridgend, who has worked tirelessly to raise funds for this charity, received the cheque on its behalf.

Mr Thomas gave a talk on the symptoms and treatment of prostate cancer to members and wives and also the way that he and

numerous celebrities have given of their time and effort to raise money for prostate cancer, including the ascent of Kilimanjaro with ex-captains of the Welsh rugby team and others, including the Wales coach, Warren Gatland.

Past president Viv Gage gave a formal thank you on behalf of the club, saying how much they enjoyed the talk and congratulated Mr Thomas for all the work he does in his consultant capacity and his efforts to raise funds for Prostate Cymru.

The picture shows Andy Thomas receiving the cheque from club president Tal Harries.

## MoD St Athan joins the Polar Express



Lisa Channon from Barnardo's Cymru and Matt Simm from MoD St Athan are pictured above. Lisa said: "Barnardo's Cymru believes in the potential of every child and young person, no matter who they are, what they have done or what they have been through. We work with over 8,000 young people and their families in 88 specialised projects in local communities across Wales. This includes work with children affected by today's most urgent issues: poverty, homelessness, disability, bereavement and abuse."

**JOB** Centre Plus staff have joined forces with Royal Air Force personnel from St Athan to create a 'Polar Express', to help Santa deliver presents to Barnardo's children's services across Wales.

Campaigner Anne Cheshire, from the Barry Job CentrePlus, started the initiative 12 years ago and the annual fundraiser now includes all Job Centres through-

out Wales, to ensure that some of the most disadvantaged children in Wales will receive a gift this Christmas.

Anne said: "The Barnardo's Christmas Toy Appeal we organise is very important as imagining a child at Christmas without any presents is unthinkable."

"We were thrilled in Barry when we found out that our colleagues across Wales wanted to support us. The whole thing has been a mammoth operation but just so worthwhile."

Commanding Officer MoD St Athan, Wing Commander Robert Balls, added: "Christmas is such a special time for children and of course everyone knows that Santa sometimes needs extra pairs of helping hands. At the end of the day what could be better and more rewarding than being part of such a wonderful project that ensures children have the best possible Christmas."

For more information about Barnardo's visit our website at [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)



# SPARKLING CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER IS A FINE FINISH TO CHOIR'S YEAR



## PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

**FOR** the second year running, local Rock Choir members from Pontyclun, Cowbridge and Bridgend celebrated their end of year at the Coed-Y-Mwstwr Hotel in Pencoed, Bridgend.

Following an action-packed year singing in local charity events and supporting their communities, Rock Choir leader Stephanie Bailey hosted a Christmas Ball full of sparkle and surprises.

Arriving to a red carpet entrance and singing their way through the evening, it was a radiant party night for all.

Stephanie announced that following all the performances for Cowbridge, Bridgend and Pontyclun councils and charities we helped to raise over £5,000 this term alone.

Highlights included the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade and the Cowbridge May Fair.

Pontyclun choir shocked the 'Keep Wales Tidy' charity by performing a flash mob in their gala dinner, while Bridgend Rock Choir performed at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl for Carols in the Pavilion to a packed audience.

For more information, visit [www.rockchoir.com](http://www.rockchoir.com) or telephone 01252 714 276.



## LOOKING BACK ON A VERY BUSY YEAR!

**THE** school offers best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all readers of The Bridgend and Porthcawl GEM.

Congratulations and many thanks to all staff, parents and students for the wonderful fundraising for charity in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Over £1,500 was sent to Farm Africa, £1,500 to CAFOD for their work in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan, £1,100 to Children in Need and 1,000+kg of groceries for the Bridgend Food Bank.

Congratulations also to the school orchestras and choirs for another excellent Christmas concert. During the concert, it was announced that Macie Wallis in year-7 has been accepted into the prestigious Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. The last student from Bridgend county to be accepted into Chetham's also came from Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.

Congratulations go to the 11 musicians accepted into the Four Counties Youth Orchestra: Sebastian Waters, Lorenz Nacilla, Rhiannon McColgan, Elizabeth Rosenberg, Catrin Williams, Phoebe Waters, Gina Bertorelli, Kamila Godzinska, Macie Wallis, James Stephens and Seren Lewis. Well done to Macie and the music department of the school.

Watch out also for ticket sales to the school production of *Oliver!* February 18 – 20. It will be a great night out!

On the sporting front, congratulations to Sam Pearce (year-11) who has been selected for the Glamorgan and Wales Cricket Academy. Also to

**NEWS FROM ARCHBISHOP  
McGRATH CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Ffion Higginson (year-7) who came first in the Glamorgan Valleys Cross Country Championship and to the year-7 team of Ffion Higginson, Olivia Provstgaard, Jessica Allen, Mya Saunders and Holly Davies who gained the silver medal.

In the same championship, Katrin Higginson (year-8) came fourth in the years-8 and 9 event and Georgia Cole (year-10) came fifth in the years-10 and 11 event.

Before Christmas, Welsh Rugby Union defence coach, Shaun Edwards, led a training event for GCSE and rugby squad students at the school. Many thanks to Mr Edwards for providing such an inspirational and motivational session for our students.

Finally, on September 1, 1965, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School opened its doors to the first group of students and on September 1, 2015, the school will begin a year-long series of celebrations to mark the Golden Jubilee of the school.

One particular aspect is the publication of a 50-year history of photographs and memories of the school. Past pupils and families: we need your help to compile the history!

Please visit the school website, or telephone Mrs Kirstie Davies on 01656 815500, for more information. Thank you!

**Rev Dr Philip Manghan  
Pennaeth**



## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

### Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

#### Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01128/FUL Extension to existing nursery to provide additional accommodation and childrens' facilities to existing business 15, Albert Crescent, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01164/FUL Extension and refurbishment to provide 2 residential units. Refurbish shop unit/external 8/9, Glebe Street, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01169/FUL Removal of the existing Vodafone 3G only MTA 10m mock telegraph pole mast (11.6m to top of antenna shroud) and its replacement in the same location with a 15m (to top of antenna shroud) Hutchinson T-Range mock telegraph pole; removal of 1 No. 3107 equipment cabinet and installation of 2 No. Huawei 3900AL equipment cabinets, 1 No. Huawei Duplexor Cabinet and 1 No. Alifabs JSC cabinet; to enable the base station to provide sharable 2G, 3G and 4G RF coverage for Vodafone in accordance with Assembly Government policy. Streetworks off Clive Place, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01200/FUL Construction of 2 x 2 bedroom apartments in lieu of approved 4 bedroom house in old post office building, plus associated parking and private amenity space The Old Post Office, 61-63, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge

#### Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01199/CAC Construction of 2 x 2 bedroom apartments in lieu of approved 4 bedroom house in old post office building, plus associated parking and private amenity space The Old Post Office, 61-63, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge

#### Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01147/LBC Waterproofing the basement area by placing a waterproof membrane on the walls and floor and placing 2 no. sumps with pumps to pump the water out. The walls will remain unfinished and a T and G woodchip floor will be installed Rectory House, Peterston Super Ely
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01149/LBC Internal alterations and refurbishment of the library, including general upgrade of all lighting, power sockets, and heating, the installation of an internal platform lift to gain disabled access to first floor of castle, addressing the level of differences by introducing raised section of flooring and raising the height of an existing door opening, installation of single glazed minimal screens within 3 No. existing stone arched openings to provide separation between the main body of the library and the proposed seminar area United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle, St. Donat's
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade I
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01185/LBC Renovation and extension to listed cottage to rear of Downcross House to form new 4 bed dwelling. Downcross, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No./Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01187/LBC Alterations to existing stepped entrance into bank branch to form a level platform at finished floor level, with the installation of a DDA compliant low rise platform lift for wheelchair users. Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, 1, Windsor Road, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

Application No./Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01188/LBC Replacement of uPVC windows and reinstatement of chimneystack (non-functioning). Red House, 60, Victoria Road, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

#### Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01148/FUL To extend time periods for the submission of reserved matters details and for the implementation of the permission Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01152/OUT Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site for residential purposes. Land Off Old Port Road, Culverhouse Cross (ITV)
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01165/FUL Demolition and redevelopment of former car park to provide 23 affordable dwellings, creation of public open space, access, and associated works Old Station Yard, St. Athan
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01199/CAC Construction of 2 x 2 bedroom apartments in lieu of approved 4 bedroom house in old post office building, plus associated parking and private amenity space The Old Post Office, 61-63, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01200/FUL Construction of 2 x 2 bedroom apartments in lieu of approved 4 bedroom house in old post office building, plus associated parking and private amenity space The Old Post Office, 61-63, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad:	

#### May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

#### Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyrto o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01129/FUL Installation of 1 x 5kw small wind turbine (evance R9000) on a 15m tower West Farm, Wick
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01133/FUL Construction of new single storey retail unit (Use Class A1 to be operated by Greggs The Bakers) adjacent to Briscoe Cleaning Services. Briscoe Cleaning Services, Cardiff Road, Barry
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01148/FUL To extend time periods for the submission of reserved matters details and for the implementation of the permission Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01152/OUT Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site for residential purposes. Land Off Old Port Road, Culverhouse Cross (ITV)
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01165/FUL Demolition and redevelopment of former car park to provide 23 affordable dwellings, creation of public open space, access, and associated works Old Station Yard, St. Athan
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No./ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2013/01173/FUL Installation of two farm scale wind turbines, with a maximum tip height of 42 metres, associated infrastructure and access track Penuchadre Farm, Wick Road, St. Brides Major
Location/Lleoliad:	

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 December, 2013

M. Goldsworthy  
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,  
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

## Rituals that lie behind Christmas...

**THE winter month of December is the 12th month on the Julian and Gregorian calendars; although it was the 10th on the Roman datebook.**

December is the first month of meteorological winter and its name comes from the Latin word 'decem' which means 10.

The Anglo-Saxons called December 'Winter Monath' or 'Yule Monath' as its traditions urged them to burn Yule logs. Christians at the time called it 'Heligh Monath' which means Holy Month.

December's birthstone is blue turquoise or zircon, and the recently added tanzanite. Its birth flower is the holly, narcissus or poinsettia. Its Zodiac signs are Sagittarius (until December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 until 21 January).

The first Sunday of December is the beginning of Advent which means 'coming'. This suggests that it is the time for the preparation for the feast of Christmas which was the coming of the Lord over 2,000 years ago.

The sixth was the feast day of the Bishop St Nicholas, who was born in Turkey in 270AD. He is the Patron Saint of children. It was originally celebrated on this date in Europe to acknowledge his death on this date, and he is said to have brought sweets and presents for well behaved children.

The tradition quickly spread throughout the world, and in America they changed his name to Santa Claus, whereas Britain adopted the term Father Christmas.

The date was then altered to be celebrated towards the end of the month, which closes the Advent season and initiates the 12 days of Christmastide, which ends after 12th night on January 6.

When the Romans introduced January and February to the calendar, they named December 26 as the Day of Goodwill. We celebrate it today as Boxing Day.

In ancient Roman times, Saturnalia was the beginning of the Roman-Pagan festival honouring their god of agriculture. This event was fêted for one day, but rapidly grew into a seven-day feast of merrymaking.

Slaves were treated with respect for the entire celebration by their masters and presents were exchanged, colourful clothing worn and gambling games played.

The appointed Master of the Revels was aptly named Lord of Misrule and chaired the celebrations right up until the 25th.

Human sacrifice was also relevant to the feast, a macabre tradition now buried in history.

Pagans had always worshipped the trees of the forest and brought them into their homes to decorate in flamboyant garlands. This was the beginning of the familiar tradition of the Christmas tree.

Mistletoe and its origins come from Norse mythology where the god Balder was killed using a mistletoe arrow while fighting a rival god over a lady named Nanna.

Druids had a ritual of using mistletoe to poison their human sacrificial victim, whereas "kissing under the mistletoe" was invented as a Christian custom of love and respect for others.

December 21, or Winter Solstice, is the shortest day and longest night of the year. It is a Pagan festival which was also called Yule and literally means start of the winter season when the sun appears at its lowest above the horizon.

Solstice (sistere) means stand still in Latin while sol means sun, and the Winter Solstice, although in contrast to the Summer Solstice, has been celebrated throughout the ages. People from ancient times recognised the peculiarity of the sun and moon standing still in the sky on this date.

On the 23rd, a humanist holiday is celebrated. One of the more modern creations, it celebrates the winter solstice and has been observed in this way since 2001.

The most memorable occasion in December is, of course, the festivity of Christmas.

The term Christmas appeared in Old English as early as 1038 AD as Cristes Maesse, and later as Cristes-messe in AD 1131. It means 'the Mass of Christ.'

This name was established by the Christian church to disconnect the holiday and its customs from pagan origins:

"We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of 'Him who made it' an old saying at that time."

Christmas celebrates the birth of Our Lord and was set to the 25th in the 4th century by the Romans. They declared this date as the birth of Christ, in order to banish what they called the 'evils of the festival of Saturnalia'.

Popular modern customs include gift giving, Christmas music and carols, the exchange of Christmas cards, Christmas trees decorated in vibrant colours, fairy lights, mistletoe, wreaths, garlands, and the performance of the Nativity Play. It is a holiday period with a feast.

These are modern incarnations of the most depraved pagan rituals ever practiced on earth. But we still cherish them to break up the monotony of the winter season.

HAYLEY WILLIAMS

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by **GLYN EVANS**

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THE death of Peter O'Toole this week reminded us that Merthyr Mawr sand dunes are still probably best known as a location for *Lawrence of Arabia*.

However, it is only a matter of time before the Christmas Pudding Race, organised by Brackla Harriers, overtakes it in fame.

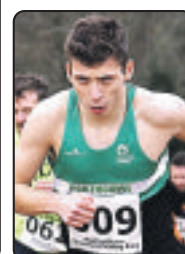
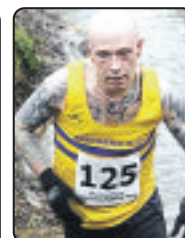
For both serious and fun runners, the start, up the steep, steep slopes of 'The Big Dipper' sand dune, is a real test of fitness!



ABOVE: A real life wedding party, including the bride and groom (third and fourth from right).



The massed start as the runners head up the Big Dipper.

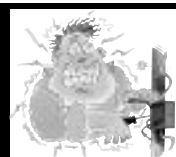






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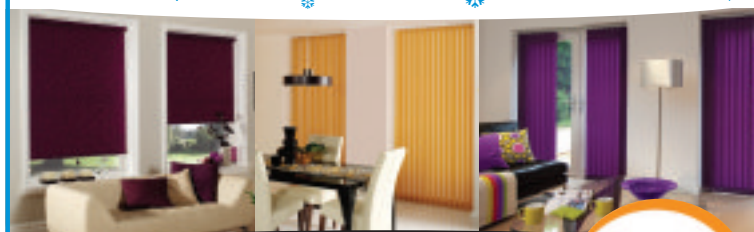
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## Christmas Greetings

**Eileen and Tony Bennett**  
OF LLANTWIT MAJOR  
would like to wish everyone  
they know a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Kevin, Ann & Rhys**  
would like to wish all their  
friends and family a very  
**Merry Christmas and  
prosperous New Year!**

**Chris & Brian Watson**  
We would like to wish all our  
family, friends and neighbours a  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**  
Donations in lieu to charity.

**Mary & John Bacon**  
Would like to wish their family and  
friends a Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year.

**To Mum (Nanny Thelma)**  
with all our love for Christmas  
and a prosperous New Year.  
Loads of love, Kevin, Ann & Rhys. XX

**Doris Thomas**  
(late of Glebeland Place)  
now at Morel Court, Penarth,  
would like to wish all friends  
of St. Athan a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.

**Mackintosh**  
Bev, Al and family  
wish you all a happy,  
healthy Christmas  
and New Year.  
Donation made to charity in lieu of cards.

## Funeral Directors

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## Family Notices

### TURNER

The family of the late  
Andrew Mark Turner  
would like to thank all  
friends and family for  
the kind expressions  
of sympathy during  
their recent  
bereavement.



### JERVIS Eluned Ann

Peacefully on December 12 at Princess of Wales  
Hospital, Bridgend, Eluned of Llandow, beloved  
wife of the late Tom, dearly loved mother of Colin,  
Jennifer and son-in-law Geoff, dear grandmother of  
Elinor and Caroline.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &  
Sons, Ffnon. Funeral Tuesday December 24, service  
12 noon at Llandow Church, near Cowbridge, followed  
by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at  
1.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu,  
if desired, to The Stroke Association c/o J James, 11  
Ffnon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

### EDWARDS David

Ann and family would like to thank everyone  
who came to remember and say goodbye to  
David on Monday 2nd December, and for their  
kind donations to the Stroke Society.

### BRENT Ena

Ena's family would like to thank everyone for  
their support and good wishes during her  
illness and at her funeral.  
Nicholas and Anne Powling (née Brent)

### EVANS Jean

Peacefully with her family in Llandough Hospital  
on December 8, 2013, aged 91 years.

Beloved wife to the late Ron, much loved mother of  
Brian, Robert, Alan, Graham and much loved mother-  
in-law, much cherished grandmother, great-grandmother,  
and great-great-grandmother. Will be greatly missed by  
all her family and friends, and by all who knew her.  
Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone  
Road, Barry, until the service in the chapel on Sunday  
December 22, 2013 at 12.15pm, followed by a committal  
service in the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port  
Road East, Barry at 1.30pm.  
Family flowers only please, donations to Cancer  
Research Wales may be sent to Velindre Hospital,  
Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2TL.

### RENDALL Alan

Recently passed away. A respected and  
lovely person who will be sadly missed by  
his Rhooster Skittles team colleagues.  
Our thoughts are with his family at  
this sad time.

### PRICE

#### Douglas Robert - 'Bob'

Peacefully on December 12, 2013, at the  
Princess of Wales Hospital. Dearly loved  
husband of Nancy and a dear father of Helen  
and father-in-law to Phillip. Will be sadly  
missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at Maesgwyn Funeral Home until the  
funeral service on Monday December 30 at  
Coychurch Crematorium at 12pm. Family flowers  
only, donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer  
Care c/o the family. Enquiries, contact Maesgwyn  
Funeral Home, Main Road, Church Village,  
Pontypridd CF38 1PY.

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## Birthdays



**Isla  
Bailey**

**Happy Birthday**  
...any cake left?

with lots of love from Mum,  
Dad & all the family xxx

### Happy 90th Birthday! Elizabeth Gordon Hiscock

on 22 December 2013

'Congratulations, Mum!'



Lots of love  
and kisses,  
Philip, Sandra,  
the late Pauline  
and all the  
family.  
XXX



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## Luke's talent contest win

A stay at the John  
Fowler Holiday  
Park in Devon pro-  
vided a chance for  
a Llantwit Major  
Comprehensive  
school pupil to  
showcase his  
singing skills.

Luke James, year-11,  
won the heat and was  
then put through to the  
grand final in November  
where he was up against  
approximately 160 other  
heat winners.

He won an extremely  
tough semi-final, and  
went on to win the final  
that same evening,  
singing 'Bring Him  
Home' from *Les  
Miserables*.

Luke won a certi-  
ficate, a trophy and £150  
in high street vouchers.  
Well done Luke - we  
are very proud of you.

On Tuesday,  
December 10, a full St  
Illtud's Church was the  
scene of the Llantwit  
Major School carol  
service.

The evening began  
with a candlelit proces-  
sion by the senior choir,  
singing a medieval carol  
'Gaudete'.

Pupils from years 7-  
13 followed this by per-  
forming a variety of sea-  
sonal songs and instru-  
mental pieces to an  
appreciative congrega-



**ABOVE:**  
Luke James with  
his award.

tion. Highlights includ-  
ed the school orchestra  
playing 'Winter  
Wonderland' and the  
year 7 and 8 choir  
singing 'Atlas -  
Wonderful Christmas  
Time'.

The evening finished  
with everyone present  
singing 'O Come All Ye  
Faithful'.

The following day, a  
number of the pupils  
also went on to perform  
a selection of pieces as  
part of the entertainment  
during the Christmas  
lunch and hamper pre-  
sentation for local pen-  
sioners. **SL**

## Place For Homes is all set for Boxing Day sale!

**STAFF at The  
Place for Homes  
have been working  
tirelessly to com-  
plete their store  
refurbishment in  
time for their  
Boxing Day sale.**

Rhian Francis, man-  
aging director, stated  
that construction work  
for the new café area  
had now been completed  
and staff were excited  
about opening for the  
winter sale at 10am on  
Boxing Day.

"Although completing  
the refurbishment in  
such a short time scale at  
one of the busiest times  
of the year has been a  
challenge, both our staff  
and contractors have  
risen to the challenge.

"Tea, coffee and cold  
drinks will be provided  
free of charge and our

staff are looking forward  
to being able to offer  
this extra service to our  
customers.

"A new Silentnight  
Gallery has been  
installed, plus a large  
leather gallery and many  
other new, exciting prod-  
ucts are now on display.  
For those customers who  
have visited us for many  
years, we have also  
retained all the leading  
brands, such as  
Sherborne, Celebrity,  
Nathan, Tempur and  
many more, and will  
continue to provide the  
best value for money  
and excellent customer  
service you have come  
to expect.

"Our team look for-  
ward to welcoming you  
all to our newly refur-  
bished store!" she  
added.

## RAF Voluntary Band's last concert

THIS Friday (December 20) is the last  
chance to hear the RAF St Athan Voluntary  
Band in concert at St Athan Church, in the  
last of their 25 Christmas concerts across  
the Vale this festive season.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and admis-  
sion is free. Refreshments will be served at  
the end. Everyone welcome.



## 'Business rates hurting small shops' – says Tory AM

**TORY Regional AM Suzy Davies was in Porthcawl to promote Small Business Saturday – an antidote to Black Friday, which saw people flocking to supermarkets, Small Business Saturday is all about shopping locally.**

She spoke to retailers in Porthcawl throughout the year to find out what they think is needed to encourage people to shop on the local high street.

Geoff and Jane Bond of Jane's Forget Me Not shop on John Street, were happy to share their ideas when she met them last week, together with their 18-month-old twin grand-daughters, Mia and Ruby.

The couple have traded in Porthcawl for 14 years, but said that many small businesses are now struggling because of rising business rates and high parking charges which deter shoppers.

Ms Davies, a Welsh Conservative

AM, said: "The business rates are being devolved by the UK Government in Westminster to Cardiff Bay and we expect Carwyn Jones' Labour Government to grasp this nettle.

"We have been advocating that smaller shops pay no business rates and that this is tapered with larger premises paying some and bigger ones again paying more.

"There is also a need to stop penalising motorists who park in towns by providing some free parking. Councils have been warned by the courts that they must not treat car parking as a cash cow and that they must have good reasons to impose charges.

"For too long, councils have fleeced motorists as an easy target but now that people can shop at home on the internet or visit retail parks with free parking, small town centre traders are up against it and need support."

## Samaritan volunteers expect a busy time during festive season

**SAMARITANS is preparing for a busy time this Christmas at its Bridgend branch.**

The national helpline is preparing to answer 15,000 calls a day from people in the UK and Republic of Ireland over the festive period, and the 85 volunteers at the Bridgend branch in Green Street will be taking its share.

Every day, volunteers will be on duty answering calls round the clock from people struggling to cope.

This Christmas will be the 13th year that Mark, a Bridgend volunteer has taken calls.

He said: "I started training in April 2000 and still remember that first Christmas. It's a wonderful time for many people, but a really tough time for others.

"People volunteer for Samaritans for a number of reasons. Some do so because they are in a good place in their life – and want to 'give something back'.

"On the other hand, some do so because their life is not going well, and they want to feel they are contributing something useful to society.

"I definitely fell into the latter category, and finding that I could be of help to other people was a huge factor in helping me climb out of a dark hole."

Retired stockbroker, Bob Howe, 58, has spent 12 years volunteering at Leeds Samaritans. His reasons for joining were different.

He said: "When I started volunteering in 2001, my own life was going well, and I was in a fortunate place.

"I have wonderful

family and friends, but I've always been aware of the pressures on people who might not be able to share problems with others. This made me realise that maybe I could be there for them at times like these.

"This time of year can increase feelings of loneliness, people may be in 'strained' family situations, may have overspent, they might have all the usual issues plus many more.

"For most of the shift, I am very busy answering calls, emails and texts, and it is a privilege to be there for people.

"Those precious few hours of being there for others is almost my way of trying to make their day a little less unhappy.

"After my shift, I go back to my family, we have a meal and good times."

Stephen Hoddell, the chair of Samaritans, said: "This time of year

can be an incredibly difficult time and we want to let people know that Samaritans is here if things are getting to them.

"When many other services shut down for the holidays, our volunteers continue to be available, answering calls round the clock. Thank you to every single person who is spending Christmas volunteering, you are inspirational."

You can help Samaritans be there to answer every single call this Christmas by texting 'SUPPORT' to 70123\* to make a £3 donation.

Samaritans is available round the clock, every single day of the year. Call 08457 90 90 90, email jo@samaritans.org, or visit www.samaritans.org

The Bridgend branch can be contacted on 01656 662333.

## Bridgend Quiz League news

**THERE was only one match on December 9 before the Christmas break, and that was a second round KO Cup-tie, in which Pyle RFC were beaten at home by Laleston Inn B by 71 points to 61. The remaining teams all had a bye.**

Here are your four-for-thought:

1. In which year of the 1990s did the following occur – Israel and the PLO sign a peace accord; cultists led by David Koresh kill American government officials at Waco; Czechoslovakia split into the Czech

Republic and Slovakia?

2. Which cocktail comprises gin, Cointreau and lemon juice?

3. The US baseball team known as the Red Sox are based in which city?

4. What surname was shared between Oswald, a fashion designer; George, a Premiership footballer; and Paul, a former Labour cabinet member?

**A RUDGE (for Quiz League)**

**ANSWERS:**  
1. 1993.  
2. White Lady.  
3. Boston.  
4. Boetting.

## PUPILS WIN PRIZES FOR CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGNS

**A SCHOOLBOY from Porthcawl will see his original artwork enter more than 3,000 homes after winning a special Christmas competition.**

A design by seven year-old Tom Browning was chosen by a panel of judges and will be used as a Christmas card which will be delivered to every home in the town next year.

Grace Community Church in Porthcawl invited primary school children to enter a competition to design an angel.

Ms Paula Williams, arts and drama teacher, who organised it, said: "We had a large number of entries and the creative standard was high.

"Our panel of judges had a difficult job, but in the end they chose nine prize winners and then selected one of those designs to be used as the Christmas card for next year.

"Tom was delighted to be a prize-winner and particularly thrilled his angel was chosen as the design for the Christmas card."

She added: "The first Angels of Grace competition has been a great success. All the entries for our first competition were beautiful and it was a shame there could only be nine prize winners."

In the early years category, the first prize went to Grace Maund of Porthcawl Primary, the second prize to Rhys Stanley of West Park Primary and third to Isabella Pascoe of West Park Primary.

In the infants category, first prize went to



ABOVE: The nine prize winners in the Christmas card competition.

Shivani Sawminathan, of St John's, second prize to Saph Cummings of Porthcawl Primary and third to Harry Heatherill of West Park Primary.

In the junior category, first prize went to Kirsten Daly of Nottage Primary, second to Megan Hughes of Newton Primary and third to Tom Browning of Nottage Primary.

All three first prize winners received art sets and all nine winners received selection boxes and a unique horse riding experience with Liberty Horses.

The angel designs themselves were strung up and displayed across the sixth form hall of Porthcawl Comprehensive School during the recent Grace Community Church Christmas Market.

The decorated hall, which is where the church meets at 10.30am each Sunday morning, was greatly admired by all the visitors to the Christmas Market.

**HELENA WILLIAMS**

## Year ends with festive trees and carol singing

**With the December meeting brought forward to the middle of the month, Coity WI had a lot to fit in, but what a splendid two weeks it proved to be.**

The Glamorgan Federation carol service was held at St David's Hall, Cardiff, where the GFWI Choir was joined by Only Men Aloud. The choir was conducted by Alun Tregellis Williams and Huw Tregellis Williams played the organ, a spokeswoman reports.

There was a varied programme of carols and Christmas music, and members enjoyed every moment. Christmas lunch at Cowbridge was very successful, and the shopping trip to Bath was blessed with very good weather.

Jean Rees, Margaret Evans and Rita Williams decorated a Christmas tree for the Nolton

church festival. Their theme was 'The Three Wise Men'. The tree was dressed with 'gold, frankincense and myrrh' decorations, and three hand-knitted figures of the wise men were placed underneath.

While we didn't win this year, the tree was much admired, and the ladies loved the comment made by a visitor that "one of the kings looked a bit grumpy."

The Link carol service, arranged this year by Bridgend WI, took place at Bridgend United Church.

A modern re-telling of the Annunciation invited us to reconsider the story in the context of modern life, and led to some interesting chats over coffee and mince tarts later.

Instead of having a speaker at our December meeting we were privileged to host Cantorion Coety, a local choir which was initially formed to promote the

Welsh Language. It proved a nostalgic evening for many, and every item was warmly received.

Some of our best loved carols were translated into Welsh, and we were impressed to find that the translations were made by Beryl Thomas, a talented and modest member of the choir.

The soloist was sixth-form student Megan Griffith, who delighted our members with the strength and purity of her voice.

We are very grateful to our committee for the varied programme they put together for us again this year, and we look forward to another successful year to come.

Next year, meetings will be held in Gilead Church Hall on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on January 16 at 7.30pm. New members will be warmly welcomed.

## Bryngarw gets in the festive mood!

**VISITORS recently stepped back in time at Bryngarw House and Country Park for yuletide activities with a historical twist at 'A Victorian Christmas' weekend.**

Street theatre entertainers put 1,500 visitors into the Christmas spirit, with live music from brass bands playing festive favourites.

Father Christmas was in his grotto and each child was given a special toy. Santa's



Amber and Harvey feed the reindeer.

reindeer flew in for a special one-off visit and the children were able to feed them and take

pictures.

There were Christmas market stalls and fairground rides, including swing carousel, coconut shy, swing boat and the amazing land of mirrors.

Storytellers brought the stories and traditions of the Victorian era to life, as well as the opportunity to hear some of the Christmas legends and even a few ghost stories!

## AM's surgeries

**THE Welsh Liberal Democrat AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding his last three advice surgeries of 2013 this week.**

On Friday, December 20, he will be in Maesteg Library from 2pm to 3pm, then at Port Talbot Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm, and Townhill Library between 5pm and 6pm.

No appointment is necessary.

## Youth theatre is back with 'The Phantom of the Opera'

**AFTER the success of last year's Tommy, Bridgend Youth Theatre will be back in Porthcawl with Andrew Lloyd Webber's gothic masterpiece The Phantom of the Opera.**

Directed by BBC Talent consultant, Roger Burnell, it tells the story of Christine Daae, a young ballet dancer in the Paris Opera House where the mysterious Phantom resides.

The role of the Phantom is taken by Joe Wiltshire Smith, and Rebecca Leigh plays opposite as Christine Daae, with Jack Ayres as

her childhood sweetheart, the dashing Raoul.

This stellar cast is supported by Elizabeth Millard as Carlotta Guidicelli, Meredith Lewis as Madame Giry, and Gethin Phillips and Jack Davies as the hilarious opera managers, Olivia Hopper and Phoebe Lewis as Meg Giry and Owen Rhys-Evans as Ubaldo Piangi.

Now in its 16th year, Bridgend Youth Theatre is an established BAFTA award-winning theatre company run in partnership with It's My Shout Productions Ltd.

It will be staged at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion on February 28 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm; and on March 1 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.



## Athletic push Narbeth all the way



A serious injury brought Bridgend Athletic's game against Narbeth to a halt on Saturday with the Athletic leading 8-3. Pictured above is Kyle Dobbin breaking through a Narbeth tackler.  
PICTURE BY GLENSPORTS

## Sully Bridge Club results

### THE latest results for Sully Bridge Club are:

Monday, December 2:  
North/South, first, Anne Johns/John Pikoulis, 66.67; second, Peter Millar/Mark Roderick, 62.73; third, Pat Walker/Beryl Marke, 53.47.  
Handicap – Anne Johns/John Pikoulis, East/West, first, Pam Sherman/Pat Verdon, 70.37; second, Anne Hilary Jones/Sean MacDougall, 59.95; third, Richard Alley/Camelia Keegan, 54.17.  
Handicap – Pam Sherman/Pat Verdon, Wednesday, December 4:  
North/South, first, Ev Kerslake/Vernon Pearne, 61.61; second, Alan James/Carol Jones, 60.71; third, Hazel Craig/Peter Craig, 58.993.  
Handicap – Ev Evarard Kerslake

Kerslake/Vernon Pearne, East/West, Trish Tracy/Peter Millar, 63.99; second, Anne Johns/Bunty Wiseman, 59.52; third, Sam Fellows/Norman Ryley, 51.49.  
Handicap – Sam Fellows/Norman Ryley, Saturday, December 7:  
North/South, first, Peter Millar/Trish Tracy, 60.32; second, Val Hetheridge/Norman Ryley, 53.97; third, Ann Hilary Jones/Beryl Marke, 52.78.  
Handicap – Val Hetheridge/Norman Ryley, East/West, first, Sean MacDougall/Anne MacDougall, 69.44; second, Pat Verdon/Mary Cartwright, 54.37; third, Bill Leyburne/Lynne Leyburne, 51.19.  
Handicap – Sean MacDougall/Anne MacDougall.

## LADIES SAVOUR END OF SEASON!

### THE Cottrell Park Ladies attended their end of season dinner.

Helen Evans, the 'friendly' team captain, gave a report on how the team had done and how every one involved had enjoyed playing.

She was grateful for the support from so many ladies.

Sian Lovell, the second team captain, reported on how the team had performed in spite of sickness and other problems, and managed to remain in the same division.

Sian was presented with a Cup by the ladies' captain Tessa Matthews for being the outstanding player in the second team.

This was followed by Helen Little, the first team captain, who reported on how the first team had remained in Division Two again in spite of many difficulties with players being unavailable due to illness, a great achievement.

Helen announced she was standing down as first team captain after five years and Sian Lovell was taking over next year.

The evening was very enjoyable and informative.

The evening ended with the three team captains being presented with bouquets of flowers.

CB

## Roller skaters fly round Jenner Park

### DRAGON Coast Roller Skating South Wales helped organise a sponsored roller skating day at Jenner Park Primary School on November 29.

Tara Ivins and Sharon Eckley who are partners in the organisation and work in partnership with Barry Community First Project volunteered their services for the school on the day.

Headteacher at Jenner Park, Mr Morris, commented: "It is wonderful to have such great support offered to the children of the school from local organisations. They have helped to create a fun time for the children which will hopefully lead to a new

interest for some of them."

The school also arranged a sponsored bounce for the younger children.

Children attending the school helped raise over £500 for the school's 'Charity at Home' fund raiser which aims to subsidise trips and activities on their new curriculum.

Mark Ellis from Barry Communities First came along to see the children enjoying themselves on the skates and bouncy castle and met Mrs Randall who commented: "It's an excellent way to raise money for the school and keep the children active, healthy and happy."

Over 75 children and staff participated in the day's events.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

## Tim's 80-1 double

**A**BERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan landed an 80-1 across the card double at Fontwell and Uttroter last week when *Bucking The Trend* won at the former meeting, and *Milborough* at the latter.

Both horses were 8-1 chances and *Bucking The*

*Trend* won the novices' hurdle by three lengths from the favourite *Beforeall* and *Milborough* held on by a neck to beat *Sixty Something* in the novices' chase.

*Bucking The Trend*, a five-year-old bay gelding, was ridden by Michael Byrne and *Milborough*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, was partnered by Richard Johnson.

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# Title race heats up as VI FC falls

**DINAS POWYS ATHLETIC dug deep to pull off an unexpected 3-0 victory over league leaders VI FC on Saturday.**

The upset, coupled with Rhosee Rover's victory over Barry Albion and the recent withdrawal of Holton Road from the division, puts VI's on the brink of losing top spot.

Since the season's opening and the VI 12 game winning run, the new boys have looked unstoppable. Now the real tests begin with Rhosee and the rest of the chasing pack hoping the leaders fail.

The game itself kicked off with VI FC looking more dangerous and hoping to build momentum after last week's 5-2 victory over Barry Rovers. VI's Phil Morgan was unlucky not to add to his 35 goals this season when finding himself through on goal early on, and was only prevented from scoring due to a brave challenge from the Dinas 'keeper.

Sean Lucas contributed to last week's victory with two goals for the VI's and nearly scored in successive games but saw his headed effort fire over the crossbar after receiving Reece Lewis's corner.

Dinas Powys used these near misses as motivation to push for an opener themselves and were disappointed when the referee waved away what they thought was a clear penalty decision.

After some neat passing play, one of their forwards, found himself through on goal before seemingly being brought down by VI keeper Craig Joughin. The official

ruled the shot stopper managed a decisive touch and no spot kick was awarded.

Going into the second half, either side looked capable of opening the scoring. Constant pressure on DPA's defence from Reece Lewis and Dean Cleave was awarded with a corner for the VI's that almost secured the first goal.

Leigh Lewis's set piece was fumbled by the otherwise infallible Dinas 'keeper and the ball fell to Mortimore who shot low into a crowded six yard box, the ball falling to Aaron Rogers who could only get the slightest touch towards goal but failed to power past the 'keeper.

At the other end, VI keeper Craig Joughin was looking unbeatable himself, pulling off an outstanding low save to his left to prevent Dinas Powys scoring before stopping a well taken volleyed shot moments later from the same source.

Geraint Jones entered the fray from the VI bench looking to make an impact for the away side, the striker almost did so after receiving a long ball. He looked to lob the Dinas' 'keeper. Unfortunately, Jones failed to connect with sufficient power and the 'keeper collected without trouble.

Moments later, the decisive blow of the bout was struck, substitutes Tony Charles and Geraint Jones almost created a chance for the VI's to score but Dinas defended well and countered even better.

A long, low ball forward, a neat one touch pass and a Dan

Griffiths run for Dinas was enough to create himself enough space for himself to fire home the opener across goal and shock the league leaders.

Not content to hold onto their lead, Dinas soon created another goal and doubled their efforts. Throwing everything forward, Phil Morgan and Dan Owen threw whatever they could muster at the home side's defence.

One Owen shot was saved and the ball was sent straight upfield to create another Dinas' break away. R.Lewis's last minute successful tackle was all that stood between Griffiths and his hat-trick.

VI keeper, Joughin also had to step up to prevent the dangerous Griffiths and had to save well at the top corner of his goal to also prevent a third from the striker.

However, these challenges were in vain as in similar fashion to his second, Dinas capitalised on another one of their goal kicks and played the ball through to Griffiths, one on one with Joughin, the VI keeper could do little to prevent the forward's inevitable hat-trick and cap off an impressive display.

This Saturday, the VI's are at home to Cadoxton Barry and will be looking to put this performance behind them quickly.

**Match line-up:** C.Joughin, J.Butcher, J.Mortimore, S.Thomas, R.Lewis, J.Laing, A.Rogers, D.Cleave, L.Lewis, S.Lucas, P.Morgan. **Subs:** J.Robinson, T.Charles, D.Owen, G.Jones.

RC

# KENFIG HAVE A LOT ON THEIR PLATE! BUT WIN THE GAME!

**This game between Kenfig Hill firsts and Ystalyfera in the second round SWALEC Plate was played in unpleasant conditions.**

We played the first half into a heavy wind and for many periods were camped on our own line but good defence and ball carrying by Steve Gillard and Alun Brace got us upfield.

The first try came from some good interplay, for centre Alun Brace to go over in the corner, outside half Nicky Giles converting.

Kenfig Hill then added to their account through Scott Waller's unconverted try but just before half-time Ystalyfera kicked a penalty to make it 12-3 at the break.

At the turn around, with the wind at our backs, Ystalyfera made good yards through their organized pack and they gained a deserved try to make it 12-8.

Midway through the second half Scott Waller got sent off for a tip tackle but Kenfig kicked well down field and from the chase gained a penalty on halfway for Nicky Giles to convert to make it 15-



**Alun Brace off-loads in the tackle. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.**



**ABOVE: Karl Davies takes on a would-be tackler.**

GW

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# LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

## LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-8s welcomed Cowbridge and Cricc on Sunday for a round robin.

The team for Sunday were Braydan, Thomas G, Corey, Thomas L, Kian, Myles, Owen, Flynn, Marcus and Carwyn. The boys played Cowbridge in their first match the boys defended well and did some outstanding tagging; the score for this match was Cowbridge 11 Llantwit 3. Try scorers for this match were Marcus, Thomas L and Braydan.

The boys played Cowbridge again they played well doing some great tagging, off-loading and defending; the score for this match was Cowbridge 8 Llantwit 4 and try scorers were Marcus with 2, Braydan and Thomas G.

In their third match they played Cricc. The boys were great in defence, tagging was excellent and the try scorers did some fantastic running to get through the opposition's defence and reach the try line.

The score for this match was Llantwit 4 Cricc 4; try scorers were Braydan with 2, Thomas L and Corey.

This week's man of the match was awarded to Corey.

### UNDER-9S

This weekend Llantwit Major under-9s were hosts to Cowbridge RFC and CRICC.

In very muddy conditions, the first match was against Cowbridge. Llantwit started fast with the first try coming from Josh.

Cowbridge had an fantastic passing game, making Llantwit work hard to defend their try line, which they did with some amazing tackles coming from Logan, Sam H and Sam A, really driving the Cowbridge attacking players backwards, causing turnovers, and making way for six more tries from, Sam H, Sam A, Logan and Rhys. The final score was 7-0 to Llantwit.

With the pitch conditions deteriorating, next up was CRICC. This was a very

physical match, with crunching tackles coming from both sides.

Llantwit played some great attacking rugby, really attacking CRICC's defence, but it was a tough line to break. Llantwit's defence was also pushed hard by CRICC, who managed to break Llantwit's line once to score the only try of the match. Final match score was 0-1 to CRICC.

Well done to all the boys who put everything into both matches.

Man of the match went to Logan Pike, for his great defensive tackling.

**Squad:** Logan Pike, Tomas Roberts, Jack Taylor, Josh Wakeham, Corey Lougher, Aneurin Price, William Harrison-Watt, Sam Alexander, Rhys Greenaway, Sam Harry, Iwan Thomas and Owen Hill.

### LLANTWIT MAJOR UNDER 12S 19, CRICC UNDER 12S 19

In almost poetic symmetry Llantwit Major under-12s finished 2013 against a CRICC team who in the opening match of the year had thumped Llantwit 11 tries to 1.

If ever a game was needed to show how much the team have developed in 12 months, this was it. Things didn't start well for Llantwit though as CRICC controlled possession for the first eight minutes before good running from the Llantwit forwards put them sniffing distance of the CRICC line.

As the attack looked to have ground to a halt, scrum half Reilly popped the ball to prop Pete Mitchell who skilted the defenders aside to open the scoring. When fly half Greenaway converted the home fans were already thinking an upset was on the cards.

Llantwit had a couple more opportunities to cross the white line but resolute defending from the Cardiff side kept the Llantwit scorecard at bay. CRICC however play the type of rugby that all junior clubs should aspire to with fast free flowing rugby warming the supporters' spirits.

The CRICC flair finally found a way through some stubborn cover tackling with

fast feet and a burst of speed the CRICC players created gaps to even things up at halftime, the score 7-7.

After the half it appeared that the tale of December would return to haunt Llantwit as two early second half tries for the visitors saw the hosts 7-19 down.

Firstly a gift wrapped penalty try followed by a lack of concentration at a turnover saw CRICC fans thinking a repeat of the January massacre was on the cards again.

Llantwit though are a different team these days and with forwards Olly Wong and Oskar Williams driving the ball forward, Llantwit found themselves yards out allowing scrum half Ben Reilly to score another three year classic.

At 12-19 the home fans found their voices and it wasn't long before they were rewarded when Llantwit's top scorer Morgan Jenkins found the smallest of spaces which he duly squeezed through and sprinted the remaining 40 yards to make it 17-19. Morgan Greenaway slotted the conversion and with seven minutes left it was anyone's game.

Both sides started running the ball from all parts of the pitch knowing just one lapse in defence would probably give the other the win, but both held strong and in the end a 19-19 draw was a fair result. With both teams missing players it was definitely Llantwit that were happier with the result with an impressive performance against a good rugby side. Llantwit now hope to push on in 2014 and build on some solid performances from this season.

There are still spaces left within the squad so if you are interested in playing then please contact team manager Bec Greenaway on neilanbec@hotmail.co.uk.

## Local rider's 'outstanding' week at Aintree

**LOCAL rider Amy Thomson has just completed an outstanding week in Aintree with her three horses; Sunshine V, Super Snoop and Boheme.**

Amy and Sunshine V won the winter amateur qualifier and two 1.15m opens.

She collected an impressive haul of five first places, a second and a third in the first weekend of showjumping.

The second weekend proved to be even more memorable when Amy and Sunshine won their first national title, at 1.15m, in the Dodson & Horrell championships.

On the first Saturday, Sunshine won the 1.15m open and went on to win the winter amateur qualifier despite Amy losing her stirrup after the first fence and having to complete the course without it.

Super Snoop was equally successful on the first day and the piebald won the 95cm and 1m classes. Sunday saw two more rosettes added to the ribbon haul.

Amy and the horses had a few days off, hacking out and riding the



ABOVE:

Up, up and away! Amy clears another fence.

gallops at Aintree, until Thursday when the qualifiers for the Dodson & Horrell amateur finals began.

The two days of qualifying saw all three horses go through to the finals in the 90 cm, 1.10m and the 1.15m classes, making the long journey and the logistics of travelling with three horses all worthwhile.

Saturday was the 1.15m National Amateur Grand Prix Final and both Sunshine and Boheme made it through to the jump-off.

Boheme found the experience rather overwhelming and had two poles down but Sunshine relished the atmosphere and, as the last drawn pair they beat the leading time by nearly a second to become national amateur champions.

Amy returned to AJT Equestrian in Dyffryn with a national title, a haul of twenty rosettes, prize money and some incredible memories.

She said: "We've had a ball!"

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- 57 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 3-Dr. In silver, 54,000 miles, low insurance. **£4,495**
- 57 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Ghia 5-Dr. In black with leather, trim £30 road tax. **£4,495**
- 04 MINI Cooper (Pepper). In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, very nice example. **£4,495**
- 08 MAZDA 2 1.4 TS2 3-dr. In red, nice bright local car, £30 road tax, low insurance. **£3,995**
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- 05 FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST. In red, 55,000 miles, 2 owners, nice example at. **£3,995**
- 09 CITROEN C2 Cool 1.4 In black, 32,000 miles, low insurance, bluetooth etc. **£3,695**
- 06 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi Sport. In met grey, 69,000 miles, £30 road tax. **£3,695**
- 03 LEXUS IS200 SE Automatic. In black, 62,000 miles, 2 owners very nice example at. **£3,695**
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- 08 SMART FourTwo. In white (new shape), £30 road tax, low insurance. **£3,295**
- 54 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-Dr. In silver, 68,000 miles. **£2,995**
- 04 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 T3 VVTi 3-dr. In silver, 78,000 miles, Stylish hatch. **Reduced to £2,995**
- 04 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.7 Diesel Enjoy In silver, 62,000 miles, fantastic mpg. **£2,995**
- 04 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL+. In met blue, 31,000 miles, 2 owners. **£2,995**
- 53 SMART City Passion Convertible Auto. Red/silver, 39,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH. **£2,995**
- 52 JAGUAR X-Type 2.5 SE 4WD Auto. In ice blue with grey leather, 64,000 miles. **£2,995**
- 54 RENAULT Modus 1.4 Dynamique. In black, 50,000 miles, nice example at. **£2,795**
- 05 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression Auto 5-dr. In met red, 56,000 miles. **£2,695**
- 04 SUZUKI Ignis 1.5 Sport. In silver, 66,000 miles with Racaro seats, white alloys etc. **£2,495**
- 52 FIESTA 1.3 LX 5-Dr. In met blue, 56,000 miles, 2 local owners, low insurance. **£2,495**
- 52 FORD Fiesta 1.3 Finese 5-dr. In red, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, low insurance. **£1,995**
- 04 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Ghia 5-Dr. In met blue, 68,303 miles local car at. **£1,795**
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**06 SAAB 9.3 Convertible (Linear 150)**  
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**£4,995**



**09 HYUNDAI 2.0 Coupe S111**  
Black Leather, 47,000 Miles  
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**60 FORD Ka 1.4 Diesel Zetec**  
Bright met blue, 29,000 miles, 1 owner,  
fantastic mpg  
**£6,795**



**04 MERCEDES C200 Diesel**  
Light met blue, 89,000 miles  
**£4,695**



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# GEM sport

## Dinas Powys FC are unlucky in defeat

**DINAS POWYS FC can count themselves very unlucky not to take something from this game against Penrhyn Ceiber Rangers after dominating the second half, but they could not break through their defence, going down 1-0.**

The visitors had the first half chance, Dimitri Fallas getting a shot away on target but it was straight at the hosts' keeper Kurt Rogers who gathered comfortably.

The hosts then caught the Dinas defence off guard and a cross from the right wing was met with a firm header by Jason Hatch into the top

corner of the net which proved to be the only goal of the game.

Dinas then forced a couple of corners, the second of which saw their goalkeeper James Curtin injured in a collision with an onrushing forward but he was okay after some treatment.

A further spell of Dinas pressure led to another corner, the ball being half cleared to Tony Herrin who got a shot on target which was saved by Rogers.

The hosts' passing was crisper at this stage without really creating many opportunities to increase their lead.

Dinas were then awarded a free kick on the edge of the Ceiber area after Paul Penikett was fouled, Nicky Bruce

taking the kick which again proved an easy take for Rogers.

A further chance came Dinas' way when a through ball found the skillful Marc Bonet who got a good shot away but Rogers was well positioned to save it.

Shortly before half-time a goalmouth scramble ensued in the Ceiber six yard box with Barry King, Fallas and Penikett all having a half chance to score, but somehow the Ceiber defence managed to stop the ball crossing the line and as the whistle went for half-time, after an even half, it was the hosts who seemed to need the interval more as Dinas were beginning to get on top.

King was replaced by Carlos Indjai at the start of the second period with a slight hamstring pull and Dinas really began to

take the game to their opponents, but despite numerous corners and free kicks they could not get that elusive equaliser.

Ceiber were still dangerous on the break with Dean Brown hitting a shot from distance which didn't bother Curtin.

Further good link up play between Fallas and Indjai led to a couple of crosses by the latter; the first one was too near the keeper, who gathered the ball, and the second reached Fallas, who took a touch but then sliced his shot off target.

The closest Dinas came to getting an equaliser was when Marc Bonet evaded four tackles with brilliant close control and looked to have scored with a left foot shot in the corner, but somehow Rogers, who was going the wrong way, got a toe to it

to deflect the ball round the post and as the wind picked up and the rain swept in Dinas rang the changes for the last few minutes, Ryan Garland and Connor Parsons replacing Herrin and Fallas and, despite laying siege to the Ceiber goal, time ran out after an excellent battling second half.

On December 21 Cardiff Met University visit the Murch with a 2pm kick off.

**Squad:** 1 James Curtin, 2 James Marr, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 Dave Penikett, 5 James Bloxham, 6 Tony Herrin, 7 Paul Daves (c), 8 Marc Bonet, 9 Paul Penikett, 10 Dimitri Fallas, 11 Barry King, 12 Connor Parsons, 14 Carlos Indjai, 15 Ryan Garland, 16 Danny Street.

PK

## KARL WINS HIS RETURN TO RING

**AFTER eight years out of the ring, Llantwit Major boxer Karl Jones made a successful comeback on a show at Aberafon Hotel.**

He was up against Andrew Martin of Gwent Swansea ABC. The taller Jones used his reach advantage to full effect, throwing long jabs to the head of the Swansea boxer.

After winning the first round, the second saw Martin catching Jones with a solid right hand, but Jones showed his experience and determination to win the bout by sticking to his game plan and keeping it long.

After three rounds, he maintained the recent good form of Llantwit Major boxing club by taking a unanimous points verdict.



Karl Jones (right) with coach Mickey Dixon.

## Athletic's game is abandoned

**HAVING put up a very good performance against the previous week against the Champions-elect Ebbw Vale in the Championship, Bridgend Athletic entertained second placed Narbeth.**

Hooker Dan Vella had crossed in the corner for an Athletic try and Steven Lewis had added a penalty to put the Athletic 8-3 ahead.

The club wish the injured Narbeth full back Jason Howells a speedy recovery.

The Athletic now face two away games either side of Christmas. On December 21 they visit Cardiff Metro and December 28 sees the second of their fixtures against Blackwood.

**YNYSBYWL 31 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2ND XV 19**

**Bridgend Athletic RFC failed to make it a perfect 10, going down to their first defeat in a friendly at Division 1 East side Ynysbywl to a mixed first and second XV home side.**

The Athletic gave debuts to five players and the Athletic try scorers were Harry Griffiths, Stuart Kenny and Ashley Adams; full back Nick Jones made two touchline conversions into the wind.

The Athletic crossed the 400 point mark for the season during the game. **AB**

## Welsh Cup dream ends for Rhose

**Rhose FC Bala Town 1 6**

**IT'S fair to say that Rhose FC were largely outclassed by their Welsh Premier opponents from north Wales at Jenner Park in this Welsh Cup encounter.**

A nightmare start which saw them go 2-0 down within eight minutes of the kick-off was unfortunately a sign of things to come.

To their credit, the home side battled back strongly to compete, set up some chances of their own and kept the score respectable for almost the remainder of the first half. A further body blow came when they conceded again with virtually the last kick of the half.

In mitigation, some of

the Vale side's class did show through from time to time with promising displays under very difficult circumstances from Drew Fahiya, Jacob Daly and James Dixon; and it was fitting that Fahiya and Dixon should combine to produce a deserved consolation goal for Rhose late on.

Rhose FC would like to thank everyone involved for their help and support - players, officials, ground staff and supporters, in contributing to this great occasion for the club, witnessed by a crowd of 102; and to Bala Town for being magnanimous in victory.

They were true sportsmen following what was a humbling but valuable learning experience for the side. **AP**

## Trainer Evan lands his Cheltenham winners!

**LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had plenty to smile about last weekend at the two-day Cheltenham National Hunt fixture.**

On Friday, he saw his King Massini land the Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase at Cheltenham by the shortest official distance - a nose.

Well ridden by Adam Wedge, the seven-year-old bay gelding got up in the last stride to deny Hit The Headlines of the spoils.

Then, on Saturday, his Ballyglasheen, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, took the opening JCB Triumph Hurdle Trial (Juvenile Hurdle) at odds of 33-1.

Further success came Evan's way just over 30 minutes later when his Wychwoods Brook won the Tom White Handicap Chase at Lingfield under Adam Wedge.

Evan, who is the Daily Mirror Saturday special racing columnist, gave his readers every chance to back Wychwoods Brook, informing them that it was his best chance of a winner.

However, although he thought Ballyglasheen could 'hopefully' pick up some place money he didn't think it

would win.

Those punters who backed Ballyglasheen on the tote though would have been disappointed; the winning dividend was just £14.40!

**OSCAR'S LONG TRIP PAYS OFF**

**Oscars Den, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, made the long 283 miles trip to Carlisle on Sunday pay off by winning the 32Red 'National Hunt' Novices' Hurdle.**

Ridden by leading jockey Richard Johnson, Oscar Den, the odds-on favourite, easily obliged, winning by three lengths from Sealous Scout.

**WINS FOR BRADLEY AND TOM**

**Local riders Bradley Gibbs and Tom David both rode winners at the Cornwall Hunt Club Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Wadebridge on Sunday.**

Bradley won the men's open race on the Llangeinor qualified Cock Of The Rock, which finished three lengths ahead of Spirit River and Tom took the open maiden race on Romassor, who had six lengths to spare over King Killer. **Brian Lee**

## Cowbridge darts round-up

**ON Tuesday, December 10, Llanharry strengthen their grip on top slot by beating the Farmers Arms 9-0.**

Meanwhile, the second placed team the Edmondson B beat the Edmondson A 6-3, in a match in which Paul Butcher (Edmondson B) established a new 3-dart highest out of 130. The team in third place, the Edmondson C, defeated the Star Inn 6-3. The Cross Inn closed the gap on the Hare and Hounds by defeating them 6-3. The Highwayman Inn beat the Old Post Ladies 6-3.

Present league standings, after eight matches, are: Llanharry (64 points), Edmondson B (54), Edmondson C (43), Hare and Hounds (37), Edmondson A (35), Highwayman Inn (34), Cross Inn (32), Farmers Arms (31), Old Post

Ladies (14), The Star Inn (7).

There are no matches scheduled over the Christmas holiday period, so the next matches will be Tuesday, January 7, when there is a full schedule of league matches.

Llanharry hosts the Edmondson C, the Edmondson A hosts Star Inn, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Farmers Arms, the Old Post Ladies host the Edmondson B and the Cross Inn hosts the Highwayman Inn.

Note that all teams can register new players until the New Year, so if you wish to play darts this season get in touch - but time is running out!

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

## The Barry darts league round-up

**HERE are the latest results from the Barry Darts 4-5**

The Wanderers 4-5 Windsor Nomads; The Poachers 9-0 Plastics C (Nigel Morgan hit a 100 out and Jon Hurn hit a 126 shot out); The Wanderers 1-8 Billy Ghosts; Caddy Cons Raiders 4-5 Cambrian Runways (Graham Underdown hit two 180s); Mariners 66 6-3 Throws of Despair; Pats 26s 7-2 Starlets.

The draw for the quarter finals for the League Cup is as follows: Cambrian Runways vs Throws of Despair; Wanderers vs BFC Allsorts; Cwm Talwg vs Poachers; Mariners 66 vs Billy Ghosts.

These fixtures are to be played on January 3. **RL**

## SEA VIEW LADS ARE IN ACTION

**FISHING is still hard with mixed bags being caught.**

The recent Seamounter open was well attended and two of the lads were in the points, Aida Harris and Thomas Williams flying the flag for the boys.

The first leg of our own Christmas competition was well supported, with around 30 fishing, and members fished hard to bring anything to the scales.

Paul Crook took the honours and the Wyndham Page trophy with a mixed bag of dogs, pout, whiting, rockling and a porcupine for 8lb in total.

Our great chairman, Steve Doble, came second and his 3lb 11oz eel also took biggest fish pool, while 3rd place went to Lee Thomson with 3lb 6ozs.

Following closely in 4th was Paul Coles with 3lb 4ozs with a selection of mini species and in 5th was Thomas Williams with Tony Safi in 6th.

*Lets hope the fishing improves for the second leg!* **JC**

MB